Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting - Regular Session – May 26, 2015
LOCATION: Lower Level Conference Meeting Room – Town Hall  TIME: 7:00PM
PRESENT:  Diane Vayda, Sarah Allen & John Tivnan – Selectmen, Johanna Swain – Executive Secretary and members of the press & cable tv.

Call To Order: 7:00PM - The meeting was called to order by Diane at 7:00 pm

Accept Minutes:
John motioned to accept the Minutes of May 7, 2015 (Regular Session); as submitted.  Second Sarah.  The Board voted unanimously.

John motioned to accept the Minutes of May 7, 2015 (Executive Session); as submitted.  Second Sarah.  The Board voted unanimously.

Sarah motioned to accept the Minutes of May 11, 2015 (Regular Session); with corrections.  Second Diane.  The Board voted Sarah & Diane – yes, John – abstain.

John motioned to accept the Minutes of May 14, 2015 (Regular Session); as submitted.  Second Sarah.  The Board voted unanimously.

Scott Peckins, Executive Director of Camping Services – YMCA:
Scott introduced himself and provided the Board with an overview of the services provided by the YMCA. The Board agreed to post a link on the Town’s Website.

Bill King – Request to Expand Saturday Hours at Drop Off Center:
Mr. King stated that he felt that the Town should go back to the original hours of the Drop Off Center; 9-4 Wednesdays and Saturdays due to the current usage of the facility. Tom Long and Phil Landine, Advisory Committee Members, stated that the Town should look at the usage, incoming and outgoing revenues and consider increasing the fees involved to cover the additional hours needed to man the facility. Paul Robinson, Monitor, questioned why he was only receiving $12.51 per hour; stating that the advertisement posted a starting pay of $13.51. The Board stated that they would look into his pay. The Board agreed to ask the Highway Superintendent for information regarding revenues at the Center prior to making any decisions. Mr. Robinson asked the Board to consider erecting an 8x8 structure at the gate with electricity. He further stated that stickers should be considered along with supplying water to the facility. The Board took his requests under advisement. Tom Long noted that some of the fencing at the facility was broken and should be repaired.

Roy Bishop – Solar Tax Agreements:
Mr. Bishop provided the Board with an overview of the proposed tax agreements for Seaboard Solar Holdings LLC and West Brookfield LLC. The Board took this information under advisement pending a formal vote at the upcoming ATM.

Resignations/Appointments:
Jack motioned to accept Stephen Pilch’s resignation from the Highway Department; with regret. Second Sarah. The Board voted unanimously.

At the request of the Highway Superintendent, John motioned to advertise to fill the vacancy on the Highway Department. Second Sarah. The Board voted unanimously.

John motioned to appoint Nancy Seeton to the War Memorial Committee. Second Sarah. The Board voted unanimously.

Diane asked the Board to email Dave Swekla and Teri Roberts to get their opinion of having the Cemetery Clerk appointed as a Burial Grounds Commissioner. The Board agreed to revisit this request at their next meeting.

Sarah stated that she was not in favor of having a husband and wife appointed to the same committee. Diane stated that she felt that the Committee needed members and that she had no objection to having spouses on this Committee. John motioned to appoint Lori Piazzo to the Recreation Committee. Second Sarah. The Board voted unanimously.

John motioned to appoint Kristen Sloan to the Recreation Committee. Diane second. The Board voted John and Diane – yes, Sarah – no.

John motioned to appoint Kevin Sloan to the Recreation Committee. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.
Ginny Rollins – Thank You Highway:
Ginny Rollins wrote to thank the Highway for their assistance with road repairs on Oak Street.

Fire Chief, Paul Lupacchino – Evaluation of Cupola:
Fire Chief Lupacchino wrote the Board to state that he had enlisted the assistance of the North Brookfield ladder truck to evaluate the current state of the Town Hall cupola; noting that a pillar had recently fallen off of the building. The Chief stated that everything remaining appears to be secure but that the Board should address light maintenance issues in the very near future. The Chief stated that he would issue a full report with photos in the near future for the Boards review.

Advisory Committee – Health, Dental and Retirement of Water Department:
The Advisory Committee wrote to inform the Board that the Water Department had agreed to pay for the health and dental insurance costs of their current and future employees. The also agreed to fund the costs of all future Water Department retirees. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Board obtain a written agreement between the Town and the Water Department outlining the agreement. The Board agreed to create an Agreement; as suggested by the Advisory Committee.

Alternate Building Inspector Vacancy:
Having only on applicant, the Board agreed to call Mr. Burlingame into their next meeting for an interview.

Determination on Longevity Stipends:
Sarah recused herself; stating she may be eligible for a longevity stipend. John stated that it is rather late in the budget process to strip employees of their longevity stipend. Diane stated that she felt as though the Board should wait until after the ASCME Unions negotiations were complete. John stated that he would be willing to consider revising the Longevity Stipend Policy to include part time employees. John stated that the part time and full time police officers currently receive longevity stipends. He further stated that the Town Accountant was grandfathered. Diane stated that she would rather wait. John motioned not to provide Longevity Stipends at this time.. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Executive Session:
John motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:46pm and to adjourn directly thereafter; under reason number one (3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation. Second Sarah. The Board voted John – yes, Sarah – yes and Diane – yes. (Executive Session Minutes are kept separately.)

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman    Vice Chairman    Clerk