Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting - Regular Session – November 3, 2015
LOCATION: Lower Level Conference Meeting Room – Town Hall TIME: 6:15PM
PRESENT: Diane Vayda, Sarah Allen & John Tivnan – Selectmen, Johanna Swain – Executive Secretary and members of the press & cable tv.

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

Cindy Dumaine – Burrington Road Bridge:
Ms. Dumaine stated that the Burrington Road Bridge was built in 1952. She stated that there are approximately eight (8) residents who depend on the bridge to gain access to their homes. They pay approximately $30,000 yearly in property taxes. She stated that the winter weather will not allow for the needed repairs/replacement and that the group is seeking financial assistance from the Town for the Spring. Ms. Dumaine stated that she wanted information relating to the Town’s Policy relating to Repairs To Private Ways. Diane stated that the bylaw will only allow for minor repairs to private ways; no subsurface drainage and no major repairs or replacements. John asked those present if they could gain temporary access via Lake View Avenue. Those present stated that the way was blocked off and that the residents of Lake View Avenue did not want the additional vehicular traffic. John stated that the Town’s finances were not in good shape. Brian Green, 91 Burrington Rd, stated that the bridge is not safe in its current condition. Ms. Dumaine stated that temporary repairs could be accomplished with metal plating. She further stated that the residents are concerned about access for the ambulance, fire trucks, police, oil and gas deliveries etc. It was noted that there was a bridge at the Town’s Drop Off Center that might be of use. Ms. Dumaine stated that it probably would not help since the use of a crane was limited at best. Those present asked about a possible Betterment Program. The Board agreed to look into a Betterment. Phil Landine, Advisory Committee Member, stated that the group may be better off addressing the issue without the assistance of the Town and stated prevailing wage laws, municipal construction laws etc. The Board took the residents’ concerns under advisement.

Representative for Teachers Union Negotiations:
The Board agreed to request a meeting schedule from the Superintendent prior to appointing a Representative from the Board.

Set Meeting for Status on Reconciliations:
The Board agreed to have the Accountant, Tax Collector and Treasurer come into their meeting on December 8, 2015 to provide a status on their reconciliation process.

Dave Swekla – Cemetery:
Dave stated that the Tree Warden had recently inspected the cemeteries and found several dangerous trees that need attention. He stated that the Clerk has resigned and that they needed to post a vacancy notice. Dave stated that he would like the vacancy advertisement to state that the individual would be responsible for coordinating burials, headstone installations etc. Dave stated that there have been an unusually high amount of burials this year. He stated that the Commissioners were working on a Headstone Installation Policy. He stated that he felt as though the Highway Superintendent is being stretched thin and would like the Board to consider restructuring to eliminate the Highway Superintendent and allow the Burial Grounds Commissioners to create a Maintenance Supervisor’s position to assist them with managing the cemeteries. Dave also stated that the Commissioners were considering raising their fees. The Board agreed to post the Cemetery Clerk vacancy online.

Insurance Renewal:
The Board executed a Health Insurance Renewal and noted that they would meeting with Jill Gallant Shaw, MIA, between now and January 15th to discuss health insurance deadlines and processes.

Letter of Appreciation for Custodians at WBES:
The Board executed a letter of appreciation for the WBES Custodian’s assistance in setting up the cafeteria for the recent Town Meeting.

Frew Overpayment:
Diane stated that she would follow up on the Frew overpayment.

John motioned to adjourn at 8:30pm. Second Sarah. The Board voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Clerk