Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting - Regular Session – October 11, 2016
LOCATION: Lower Level Conference Meeting Room, Town Hall – Town Hall TIME: 6:30PM
PRESENT: Sarah Allen, John Tivnan & Diane Vayda – Selectmen.

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

Minutes:

John motioned to accept the Minutes of September 7, 2016 (Regular Session and Executive Session). Second Sarah. The Board voted John & Sarah – yes, Diane – abstain.

John motioned to accept the Minutes of September 8, 2016 (Regular Session). Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Diane asked the Board to hold off on accepting the Minutes of September 13, 2016 (Regular Session) and September 27, 2016 (Regular Session) stating that she had questions. The Board agreed to hold off until the next meeting.

John motioned to accept the Minutes of September 27, 2016 (Executive Session). Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

John motioned to accept the Minutes of October 4, 2016 (Regular Session). Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Interim Fire Chief, Brian Charron:
Interim Chief Charron provided the Board with written updates concerning the Fire Department. The Interim Chief asked the Board to consider paying Garrepy Enterprises, LLC out of the Town Building Maintenance Account for a cement floor to be poured in the Fire Station. Upon the request of the Interim Chief, John motioned to approve up to $3,750 to pay Garrepy Enterprises, LLC for a cement floor in the Fire Station. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously. The Board agreed to wait on installing an exterior slab for a proposed generator location.

Police Chief, C. Thomas O'Donnell:
The Chief asked the Board to consider creating a Civilian Liaison Position. The Board took the information under advisement pending information from legal counsel. Upon the request of the Chief, John motioned to donate a mobile radio to the Hardwick/New Braintree Police Department. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously. The Chief asked the Board to allow him to fill the Sergeant’s vacancy with a Full Time Patrolman. The Board asked the Chief to write up a proposal and outline funding sources for the post. The Chief stated that he was hoping to retire in 5-9 years so he wanted to line up a competent chain of command prior to his departure. He stated that he will be completing a written promotion staffing/outline for the Board’s review. The Chief noted that Officer Bell would be starting his academy training on January 7th.

Resignations/Appointments:
John motioned to appoint Dan Hamilton to the Historical Commission until 2018. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

John motioned to appoint Mary Beth Czaja to the Open Space Committee. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

John motioned to appoint Linda MacCoy as the SCM Elderbus Representative. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Paul Robinson – Drainage Issues on John Gilbert Road by his home:
Mr. Robinson told the Board that he is having drainage problems on his lot from the roadwork accomplished by the previous Superintendent (Benoit). He stated that his property has been devalued, the flooding is close to an abutters leach field, it was illegally directed towards his property without an easement or eminent domain, that the DEP told him that he could block the drain if he wanted to, that an 80’ pine tree fell that year and hit his deck and that the oak tree bases were smothered with dirt. Jim DiMaio, Tree Warden, had stated that the ash trees are dying due to disease and not excessive water. The Tree Warden agreed that the oak tree smothered with dirt should probably come down. The Board took the information under advisement and agreed to send Mr. Robinson’s complaint to legal counsel. The Board told Mr. Robinson that they would get back to him in about one week.

Worcester Elevator Company – Suggested Safety Upgrade:
Paul Gibree, Operations Manager from Worcester Elevator Co. Inc., wrote the Board to offer a safety upgrade of electronic doors for $4,520. The Board took the offer under advisement.
L. Kostantin & M. Niemiec – White Christmas:
Lauren and Michelle sent a letter to the Board to inform them that the 24th Annual White Christmas would be held on Sunday, December 4th from 11am to 8pm.

Dept. of Public Safety – Trench Permitting Authority & Inspector:
The Department of Public Safety is updating their Trench Permit database and is seeking updated information.

Advisory Committee – Oversight Agenda and Power Point Presentation of New Budget Format:
(R. Gobi, L. Loughlin, P. Griffing, P. Landine, B. Hibbard, T. Long, B. Blozie)
Pam Griffing did not have the proper equipment available to her but used her laptop to provide the Board with an overview of new budget forms she created for the Town. Pam stated that the Advisory Committee had created new line items that the Department Heads would need to use in an effort to track various line items. Brad Hibbard stated that he had spoken with the Police Chief who is already doing this and has no problem with this proposed changes. The Board thanked Pam for her hard work and asked to have the document emailed to the Board and Accountant so that the spreadsheets could be reviewed and could be familiarized.

The Chairman stated that she was not going to review and discuss the Advisory Committee Fiscal Oversight Agenda Fiscal Year 2017 document. She stated that this information would be taken under advisement. The Advisory Committee asked why they were not going to review their Oversight Agenda. Sarah reminded the Committee that the Selectboard does not work for the Advisory Committee and that she agrees with John that the word “Oversight” in their documents is offensive. Brad Hibbard apologized for the wording and stated that the Committee just wants to be heard. Sarah stated that these issues have been ongoing and that the Board is well aware of the position that the Advisory Committee holds on these issues. She further stated that the Advisory Committee had put their concerns and writing and submitted them to the Board. She reminded that Committee that the Selectboard are the policy makers for the Town and that they are diligently working daily on issues identified by their Board as critical to the Town.

John motioned to adjourn at approximately 7:30pm. Second Sarah. The Board voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Clerk