Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting - Regular Session – September 16, 2014

LOCATION: Lower Level Conference Meeting Room – Town Hall  TIME: 7:00PM
PRESENT: Barry Neadon Jr (arrived 7:45pm), Diane Vayda & Sarah Allen – Selectmen, Johanna Swain – Executive Secretary and members of the press & cable tv.

Call To Order: 7:10PM  - The meeting was called to order by Diane at 7:08 pm

The Board executed the Payroll & Expense Warrants.

Accept Minutes:
Sarah motioned to accept the Minutes of August 5, 2014 (Regular Session). Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Sarah motioned to accept the Minutes of August 19, 2014 (Regular Session). Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Sarah motioned to accept the Minutes of September 2, 2014 (Regular Session). Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Sarah motioned to accept the Minutes of September 2, 2014 (Executive Session). Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

DOG HEARING: Bliss:
Mrs. Susan Talbot read a statement surrounding the alleged dog incident on August 31st. She stated that she was walking her dog on a harness leash when Kenny’s dog charged at her dog. She stated that she was able to pick up her dog due to the harness and spared it from an attack. Ms. Talbot stated that Bliss’s dog is loose often and that they do not have control over the dog.

Ms. Joan Kubiak, sister of Ms. Talbot, stated that she also walks her dog, which is over 60 lbs, in the neighborhood. She further stated that the Bliss’s dog charged the fence in an attempt to make contact with her dog.

Kenny Bliss stated that his dog lies out on his deck unleashed. He further stated that she does chase and greet other dogs. He stated that his dog is walked on a leash. He stated that he is in the process of fencing in his deck with lattice. He stated that he is on disability and can not afford fencing at this time. He stated that his dog does not like cats. He believes that he has remedied the situation by installing the lattice around his deck; as the dog is afraid of it and respects the boundary. He stated that the lattice is approximately 4 feet in height.

ACO Leah Shattuck stated that she has not received any complaint calls between the last Hearing in 2012 and this complaint. She stated that she does not believe that the Bliss’s dog is an aggressive dog but it does appear to have a very high prey drive. She stated that she absolutely believes that the dog needs to be contained; as it could accidentally kill a small dog or cat.

Ms. Talbot stated that she had done some fencing research and that she believed that this type of dog could jump a 6 foot fence.

Cindy Bliss stated that their dog can not jump up onto their bed, never mind a 6 foot fence.

Diane Vayda stated that the Bliss’s dog was ordered and must be on a leash when outside.

Ms. Talbot stated that “Jay” uses a leash when walking the Bliss’s dog but that Kenny does not.

Cindy Bliss stated that she had a loose dog in her yard just this morning.

Sarah motioned to close the Hearing. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.
After some deliberation, Sarah motioned to reiterate the fact that “Sydney” must be fully physically restrained on a leash or chain when outside of the Bliss residence. She further stated that the Board vote to Order the Bliss’s to install a 6 foot fence within 30 days. Fencing must be approved by the Town. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

**Highway Superintendent Daley – Maintenance of Pine Grove Cemetery:**
The Board received a letter from Bonita R. Porter, Brookfield MA stating her dissatisfaction with the current maintenance being done at Pine Grove Cemetery. Superintendent Daley stated that the cemetery is mowed by section for about half the previous cost. Diane & Sarah both stated that they had recently observed the condition of the cemetery and did not have an issue with its condition; considering the recent budget cut backs. They thought that the cemetery was in good condition. Cemetery Commissioner Dave Swieka stated that the workers were in the cemetery this afternoon mowing and that the condition of the cemetery was basically good.

**Review Special Town Meeting Proposed Articles:**
(Richard Gobi, Tom Long, Kevin Paquette, Brad Hibbard & Phil Landine, Advisory Committee members present.) Sarah motioned to hold a Special Town Meeting on October 21, 2014 at 7pm at the WBES and to open the STM Warrant. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Richard Gobi, Chair of the Advisory Committee, stated that Town should not make any capital purchases at this time; and should wait until the Annual Town Meeting. This will allow FREECASH to be available to fund the OMNIBUS Budget.

The Board took the proposed articles under advisement. The Board agreed to have a work session on 9/23 to work on a Time Clock Policy.

**Veteran’s Service Officer Vacancy:**
Sarah recused herself, stating that she is “acting VSO”. Diane motioned to appoint Gary Lapine as VSO. Second Barry. The Board voted Diane & Barry – yes, Sarah – recuse.

**Executive Session:**
Diane motioned to go into Executive Session with the Town Accountant & Town Treasurer under reason number two (2) to discuss contract negotiations with non union personnel; specifically about the Town’s Trust Funds and to adjourn directly thereafter. The Board will also discuss a Grievance from Local 83B relating to a proposed Violation of Article 24.14. Second Sarah. The Board voted Diane – yes, Sarah – yes and Barry – yes.

(Executive Session Minutes are kept separately.)

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman (late)  [Signature]
Vice Chairman [Signature]
Clerk [Signature]