Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting - Regular Session – December 5, 2017
LOCATION: Lower Level Conference Meeting Room, Town Hall – Town Hall TIME: 6:30PM
PRESENT: Diane Vayda, Philip Landine and Deborah Provencher (late) – Selectmen.

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

Minutes:
Phil motioned to accept the Minutes of November 20, 2017 (Regular Session), November 20, 2017 (Executive Session), November 21, 2017 (Regular Session), November 27, 2017 (Regular Session) and November 27, 2017 (Executive Session). Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

6:31 PM Tax Classification Hearing:
Assessors Beverly Kenniston provided the Board with an overview of the purpose of the Tax Classification Hearing. After some discussion, Phil motioned to adopt a single tax rate for all classes with a factor of one. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

COA – Request for a Third Telephone Line:
Linda MacCey, Director, wrote the Board to request a third telephone line for the COA. Linda stated that with the Outreach Coordinator, VSO, Shine, Tri-Valley Meals-On-Wheels etc. that two phone lines do not provide enough capacity for the center. Phil motioned to provide an additional phone line to the COA. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Special Use Permit:
Phil motioned to approve a Special Use Permit for the Wickaboag Sportsmen’s Club for January 21, 2018. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Request to Plow Burrington Road from Dean Buchman:
Phil noted that he had visited the site and had spoken to the Highway Superintendent. He voiced concerns over the privately maintained bridge, its weight rating and liability issues. After some discussion, Phil motioned to deny Mr. Buchman’s request to plow Burrington Road. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

(Deborah arrived.)

Personnel:
Phil motioned to appoint Brendan Mahoney to the Music Committee. Second Deborah. The Board voted unanimously.

Phil motioned to accept Ed Loneragan’s resignation from the Historical Commission; with regret. Second Deborah. The Board voted unanimously.

The Board reviewed a letter from the CMMPO stating that they were seeking a new Subregion Representative. The CMMPO will be holding a meeting on Thursday, December 7th at the Richard Sugden Library, 8 Pleasant St, Spencer to select a new Representative. The Board agreed to check their respective schedules.

AFSCME Union – Contract Extension Negotiations:
Western Regional Coordinator, Nadine Kennedy, wrote the Board to request the commencement of Union Contract extension negotiations. The Board agreed to schedule sessions in mid-January 2018.

Excise Tax Update:
Chair Vayda read the attached letter; being sent to all affected taxpayers. (See attachment)
Master Plan Update:
Chair Vayda provided an update on the DRAFT Master Plan. Diane stated that the Planning Board would be meeting with the Selectboard on Tuesday, December 19th to review the plan. The Planning Board is scheduled to adopt the Master Plan during the same meeting.

Personnel:
Phil motioned to appoint MJ Haesche to the Planning Board until the next election scheduled for May 1, 2018. Second Deborah. The Board voted unanimously.

Waste Oil Contamination at Drop Off Center:
Highway Superintendent Daley wrote the Board to inform them that the waste oil tank located at the Drop Off Center had been contaminated with PCB’s. This will require Clean Harbors to work with Safety Clean to dispose of the contaminated waste. It could cost up to $8,000. Superintendent Daley stated concerns with lack of funds to pay for the removal. Phil motioned to cease and desist from receiving any waste oil effective immediately. Second Deborah. The Board voted unanimously. Noting that the Board with scheduled to meet with the BOH on December 12th, the Board agreed to speak with the BOH. Phil asked the Executive Secretary to contact the Town’s insurance carrier to inquire about possible coverage.

No Parking Signage on Maple Street:
Phil stated that he believed that the recently installed “No Parking” signage on Maple Street has created worse parking problems. Phil recommended leaving “No Parking” signs on each side of McCarthy’s residence. He further stated that the Town was in the process of studying the entire area in an effort to alleviate congestion issues. Phil stated that the police department could still utilize temporary “No Parking” signage during events. Phil motioned to leave a “No Parking” sign on each side of McCarthy’s home and remove the rest. Second Deborah. The Board voted unanimously.

Shea Road Complaint:
The Board briefly discussed the status of a Shea Road complaint.

Phil motioned to adjourn at 7:12 pm. Second Deborah. The Board voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signatures]
Chairman
Vice Chairman
Clerk
1 December 2017

The Town of West Brookfield recently learned of issues encountered by several taxpayers with the processing of their tax payments by the former tax collector. Any taxpayers who have received warrants for past due bills for 2015 or 2016 who believe the bill was not processed correctly by the Town should first pay the total amount of the bill in the warrant as soon as possible to avoid further collection efforts through the marking of the bill at the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Payments on warrants must be made to the Deputy Tax Collector, Jeffrey & Jeffrey, at the address provided in the warrant, and will not be accepted locally by the Tax Collector. Once payment has been made, aggrieved taxpayers should contact the Tax Collector’s office at (508) 867-1421 ext. 301, who will review the matter on a case by case basis to determine if the taxpayer is entitled to a refund. Taxpayers who have any questions regarding this process should contact the Tax Collector’s office.

Sincerely,

Diane Vagda

Philip Landine

Deborah Provencher