Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting - Regular Session - October 24, 2017
LOCATION: Lower Level Conference Meeting Room, Town Hall - Town Hall TIME: 6:30PM
PRESENT: Diane Vayda, Philip Landine and Deborah Provencher - Selectmen.

Call To Order: 6:35PM - The meeting was called to order by Diane at 6:35pm

Minutes:
Phil motioned to accept the Minutes of September 12, 2017 (Regular Session and September 12, 2017 (Executive Session). Second Diane. The Board voted Phil and Diane - yes, Deborah - abstain.

Deborah motioned to accept the Minutes of October 10, 2017 (Regular Session). Second Phil. The Board voted Phil and Deborah - yes, Diane - abstain.

STM:
Phil motioned to cancel the Special Town Meeting due to the fact that there were no pressing issues. Second Deborah. The Board voted unanimously.

Fire Service Group - Quote for Air Compressor for the TH Sprinkler System:
Phil motioned to accept a proposal from Fire Service Group furnish and install a new General Air 1HP Base mounted air compressor; $2,042.36. It was noted that the Town would provide an electrician to disconnect the existing compressor wiring and reconnect to the new air compressor. Second Deborah. The Board voted unanimously.

Police Chief C. Thomas O’Donnell – Security Recommendations/Ideas:
Chief O’Donnell provided the Board with his thoughts regarding security in writing. Some of the recommendations included replacing and/or upgrading the current video surveillance system, consider sectioning off the building, place a direct dial phone in the hall near the Police Department and consider going to an electronic entry system. The Board took the recommendations under advisement.

Highway Superintendent – Donation of Materials:
The Superintendent send a note to inform the Board that Bond Construction Corp. had donated 60,490 tons of material to repair Madden Road.

Kelly McCarthy – Halloween Parking on Maple Street:
Ms. McCarthy emailed the Board to request “no parking” signs be placed on the side of Maple Street with the houses on it during Halloween. Ms. McCarthy outlined several safety concerns relative to parking, speed, pedestrians, lighting and damage to lawns and flowers. The Board agreed that this area of Town posed parking and safety concerns. The Board took Ms. McCarthy’s concerns under advisement and agreed to review the entire area further.

Fire Department Staff:
The Board met with members of the Fire Chief Search Committee: Fire Chief Colombe, Police Chief O’Donnell, Fire Chief Mottor, Fire Chief Roy and Dave Beaudin – DFS. The Board provided a written progress report dated September 26, 2017. “Due to only having one application and some of the concerns expressed we voted to not interview the one candidate. The committee thinks it is best for the Board of Selectmen to look for an interim Fire Chief. We also offer our expertise to do a needs assessment of the West Brookfield Fire Department. It is our recommendation the need assessment would be completed before you advertise for a permanent Fire Chief.” Phil motioned to accept the recommendation of the Search Committee. Second Diane. The Board voted Phil and Diane - yes, Deborah - abstain. Chief Colombe stated that the needs assessment would be provided at no charge. Chief Roy would perform an assessment of the communications/radios. Chief Colombe would review the policies and procedures. Dave Beaudin would assess the inspectional procedures. A capital plan would be developed relative to the fire apparatus. The Board asked if six months would be a correct time frame for the assessment. Chief Colombe stated that it was an aggressive time frame but certainly was possible. Several active and retired members of the Fire Department were present to state their objections to the change of Interim Fire Chief. The
group questioned the interview process utilized, what they believed was a lack of input received from their department relative to the departments staffing, the residential location of proposed Interim Chief and hours of work for the new Interim Chief. The group also felt that the needs assessment should be conducted under a permanent Chief.

The Board took the concerns/complaints under advisement.

Phil motioned to appoint Paul Foster as the Interim Fire Chief. Second Diane. The Board voted Phil and Diane – yes, Deborah - abstain.

Phil motioned to adjourn at 7:09pm. Second Deborah. The Board voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Clerk