Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting - Regular Session – March 21, 2017
LOCATION: Selectmen’s Office, 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 (*Continued from March 20, 2017)

John motioned to move the meeting to the Lower Level Conference Meeting Room; due to a large number of attendees. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously. (Brad Hibbard, Phil Landine, Tom Long & Bob Blozic – Advisory Committee members, Christine Long – Clerk to Adv. Comm. and Police Chief, C. Thomas O’Donnell)


Brad stated that someone should get up and explain why a part time department with a non-permanent Chief has an article on the warrant. They should wait until they have a permanent Fire Chief. John stated that the low capacity may not be high enough. Brad asked the Board if the STM article passes would they recommend passing over the fire truck article at the Annual Town Meeting. John stated that he “…probably wouldn’t.”

Sarah excused herself so that the remaining members could address longevity stipends. It was noted that only the BOH Clerk and Executive Secretary were eligible for longevity stipends. Elected Officials, those with Contracts and Union Members were not to be considered for this policy discussion. Some of the Advisory Committee members stated that they believed that longevity stipends should not be compounded into the employee’s base pay. Diane read Tom Counsel’s opinion with regards to how longevity stipends should be calculated. Brad Hibbard stated that he did not agree with the Board’s interpretation of Counsel’s opinion. The Board agreed that Diane would contact Legal Counsel for clarification.

The Board met with the Police Chief to discuss staffing. The Chief stated that he felt that by adding a Corporal that there would be one more level of supervision. He further stated that evening phone calls could be split between himself the Sergeant and the Corporal. He stated that he would like to move towards an all full time department. He would like to take one patrolman off the road and use him as a Detective. The Detective would make runs to the Drug and Crime Labs. He/she would do all videos and all evidence would be processed through the Detective. The Chief stated that he would like the Corporal language to remain in the Superiors Contract. The Board stated that they have taken the Corporal language out of the Contract and have referenced the employees in the Contract as Superiors or Supervisors. The Chief stated that he would like to see the Sergeant’s hourly rate at 2% over the highest patrolman and the Corporal 1% over; noting that these are subject to negotiations with the Union. The Chief stated that his staff has accumulated more in vacation time which impacts overtime with an increase. The Board stated that they are working with legal counsel to create a usable Superior’s Contract.

John motioned to allow the Chair to execute a revised MIA Health Benefits Trust Renewal Proposal 7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018 noting the following changes: Anniversary date moved to 7/1. Upgraded HMO Blue to NE Network with no additional premium and new cards will be issued prior to 7/1. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

The Board agreed to install two (2) 15 minute parking signs by the proposed daycare on Central Street; but not until after the 20 day waiting period is over in the Town Clerks Office and no complaints are received.

The Board agreed to set up a meeting with the Library Board of Trustees on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 6:30pm at the WBES to discuss negotiable items regarding the Library Director vacancy.

John motioned to adjourn at 7:25pm. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted.

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Clerk