The meeting of the West Brookfield Advisory Committee, West Brookfield Selectmen, Warren Finance Committee and Warren Selectmen was called to order by Chair Jack Tivnan at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called by the West Brookfield Advisory Committee to talk about the School Budget. Jack Tivnan said that West Brookfield’s assessment is up 7% ($156,000) over last year. He said that when he was a Selectman the school budget was 27% and now it is 51-53% of the Town budget. Bob Souza who is also on the School Board said the budget is bare bones with a 1% increase for the teachers. He said we are asking for level services not level funding. Jack Tivnan said West Brookfield will need to take money from stabilization this year to balance the budget. Roger Slobody said our employees are not getting raises this year and it is time to push back. Warren Selectmen said they would support West Brookfield. The Advisory Board will meet with the school and hear what they say.

Review Budgets:

Drop Off Center:  Jim Daley was present to discuss his budget. Jim said he has hired a new person and his rate is lower. He will be reducing the hours the Drop Off Center is open and increasing some of the fees. Discussed chipping of brush, which will cost $20,000, which does not seem to be in any budget. Asked why he does not burn the brush and the answer was he cannot get a permit to do this. Tom Long made a motion to approve the Drop Off Center budget in the amount of $13,000. The submitted budget was $14,715.29. Diane Vayda second. Vote 6-0 to approve the Drop Off Budget for $13,000.00

Planning Board:  Tim Morrell was present to discuss his budget. Tom Long asked what could you live with and the answer was he had no idea of what would be coming in. Tom Long made a motion to approve the Planning Budget as submitted. Diane Vayda second. Voted 6-0 to approve the submitted budget of $2,336.00.

Cemetery Budget:  Cemetery Commissioners Kevin Roberts, Marjorie Reim and John Bartlett were present to discuss the budget. They were asked to use $10,000 of their trust funds and they have done this. Roger Slobody made a motion to approve the submitted budget of $9,395.87. Jack Tivnan second. Vote 7-0 to approve the budget as submitted.
Police Department: Chief Tom O’Donnell was present to discuss his budget. He said he did not take $2,600 out of the overtime line. He said he has scaled the firearms replacement back to $1,050.04 and could take it all out if necessary. Roger Slobody made a motion to approve the police budget of $531,798.61. Tom Long second. Vote 7-0 to approve police budget of $531,798.61.

Emergency Management: Chief Tom O’Donnell was present to discuss this budget. Roger Slobody made a motion to approve the budget. Jack Tivnan second. Voted 7-0 to approve the budget of $6,663.16 as submitted.

Assessors: Bill Mansfield was present to discuss his budget. Discussion held about taxing the boats on the Lake and whether to do this in house or hire private collector. Bill Mansfield agreed to talk with Dan Kelley, a private collector. Bill Mansfield said a property in Town was non-profit and was sold and is for profit now and the assessment is less. He would like to use $2,500 of his budget to hire a professional assessor and revalue this piece of property. He said for FY13 he will be returning $15,000 from wages to the Town. Roger Slobody made a motion to approve the budget with the Assessor Clerk Salary reduced to $15,000 from $20,000. Richard Gobi second. Voted 7-0 to approve the budget with lowering the Assistant Assessor salary from $20,000 to $15,000.

Tree Warden: Jim DiMaio was present to discuss his budget. He said his general expenses are for tree removal, grinding stumps and new trees. He felt he could reduce the general expense from $20,000 to $16,000. He said people donate trees and he has sold forest products off Town land. Phil Landine made a motion to approve the budget with general expenses reduced to $16,000 from $20,000. Roger Slobody second. Vote 7-0 to approve the budget with general expenses reduced to $16,000 from $20,000.

Insect and Pest Control: Jim DiMaio was present to discuss his budget. He stated that he could reduce his budget by $200.00. Roger Slobody made a motion to approve the budget of $1,900 less $200.00. Tom Long second. Vote 7-0 to approve budget of $1,700.

Agricultural Commission: Brad Quigley was present to answer questions. He said he held a meeting last Thursday and his board is filled. The Committee’s plan is to have meetings with speakers and invite the public to attend. Roger Slobody made a motion to approve the Agricultural Commission budget. Diane Vayda second. Voted 7-0 to approve the budget.

Jack Tivnan instructed the secretary to invite James Boos, Rescue Squad, to the next meeting.
Tom Long made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roger Slobody second. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary