The meeting was called to order by Chair Lori Loughlin at 6:22 p.m.

MINUTES: Robert Blozie made a motion to approve the minutes of April 3, 2017 as presented. Brad Hibbard second. Vote 4 to approve (1 abstain (Richard Gobi) the minutes of April 3, 2017 as presented.

VETERANS BUDGET: Committee reviewed the revised Veterans Budget. Robert Blozie suggested State reimbursement should go back into the Veterans fund and not into the general fund. Discussed merits of establishing revolving account. Tom Long noted the State reimburses the Town for 75% of expended funds.

SCHOOL BUDGET: Bret Kustigian, Superintendent of Schools, Cami Lamica, Director of Finance and Operations and School Committee members Dustin Atwood and Craig Burgess were present. Bret Kustigian gave a power point presentation on the District’s proposed FY18 budget. The School Committee voted on March 20, 2017 to support a budget totaling $17,843,238. This supports the reinstatement of three staff positions to include one full time QRMHS math teacher, one full time WCES instructional coach, one half-time WBES special education teacher and one full time WBES kindergarten paraprofessional. West Brookfield’s minimum local contribution is $2,708,098 (down $58,137), requested above minimum contribution $307,435 (up $57,435), transportation $356,005 (up $10,388) for a total net increase of $9,686 over FY17 budget. West Brookfield’s total operating assessment is $6,790,081. Bret stated that 22 positions have been cut since he became Superintendent of Schools and realizes the reinstatement of all positions is not fiscally possible at this time.

The Advisory Committee had several questions relative to the upcoming budget and asked for the origin of the funds in E&D. Cami will provide that information to the committee. The committee also expressed its concerns going forward on the impact of applying $600,000 of E&D funds to the FY18 budget. Brad Hibbard asked Cami if she could forward data supporting overview budget document presented to the committee. She will do this. General discussion held on transportation, school choice, grants and solar panels. Chair Lori Loughlin explained that the FY18 budget is tight and that we could not commit to the budget as presented at this time.
BUDGET ANALYSIS: Pam Griffing explained she is working toward getting accurate projected revenue figures. General discussion regarding projected revenues and expenditures. There was consensus that we should not take anything from the Town Stabilization Account and should be working toward increasing funds in that account. Pam will reach out to the Town Accountant to discuss projected revenues.

The Advisory Committee reviewed the ATM warrant articles and agreed to withhold recommendations until more accurate revenue funds are available.

The Advisory Committee discussed the Town Accountant position and suggested the town may be better off contracting accounting services rather than hiring an internal accountant. The committee will discuss this with the BOS at an upcoming meeting. Committee Chair Loughlin will ask to be placed on a future BOS meeting agenda after the town elections.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE BUDGET: The committee received notice from the Town accountant that the FY17 budget may be minimally short. The committee agreed to increase the FY18 Advisory Committee budget recommendation as follows: Salary (Administrative Assistant) $1500 and Expenses $300 for total FY18 budget of $1800.

Chair Loughlin will contact committee members with convenient date for next meeting pending receipt of revenue information.

Tom Long made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pam Griffing second. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary