TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 24, 2013

Present: Roger Slobody  Mark Long, Selectman
Richard Gobi   Mike Frew, Selectman
Phil Landine   Barry Nadon, Jr., Selectman
Roy Roberts   Johanna Swain, Executive Secretary
Jack Tivnan   Marie Arsenault, Accountant
Diane Vayda   Kevin Paquette, Candidate for Selectman
Tom Long

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jack Tivnan at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes: Diane Vayda made a motion to approve the minutes of April 17, 2013. Roger Slobody second. Voted 7-0 to approve the minutes of April 17, 2013 as presented.

Review Budgets:

# 46 Common Committee: Robert Richard and Betty DiMaio were present to answer questions. The Highway Department will mow the common and use Common Committee budget dollars for gasoline, equipment and equipment maintenance, mulch, fertilizer, and plants. Grounds Keeper salary of $2,500 will be used for a janitor. Question about $2,000 for electricity and the committee explained that electricity was used for the Christmas tree, for the bandstand, for concerts, and the fountain lights. At our last meeting, it was suggested that the Common Committee charge vendors using the common an electricity fee. The committee said that they have since met with the Asparagus Committee and will be charging vendors using electricity a fee. Robert Richard said they have contractors coming to look at the gutters for estimates. Roger Slobody made a motion to approve the Common Committee budget of $9,290.05. Diane Vayda second. Vote 7-0 to approve the budget.

#32 Education: Bret Kustigian, Superintendent of Schools, Camie Lamica, Director of Finance and Operations and Lori Loughlin, School Committee Member were present to discuss the school budget. Bret Kustigian gave a power point presentation of the FY 2014 Budget and said QRSD has been very successful in growing programs and STEM initiatives through competitive grants and savings through facilities upgrades. He said that QRMHS recently received a 2012 Silver Award from US News and was ranked as a top school in the Commonwealth and in the nation. Total budget approved by the School Committee is $15,897,839, 2.9% increase. The School has requested $91,552.00 above the minimum contribution. The Advisory Committee told Bret that the Town has no money this year and has been slashing Town budgets and could the School find a way to cut their budget. Bret said that QRSD is doing a lot more with a lot less. For the past few years, the total operating budget has decreased and yet expenses continue to rise. He said they will be offering more school choice slots this year and mailed an advertisement
Page 2

to area towns. They will be looking at school bus routes. The Advisory Board asked if they could manage with $50,000.00. Lori Loughlin said with difficulty but could go with $50,000. Tom Long made a motion to approve $50,000.00 discretionary funds. Diane Vayda second. Voted 7-0 to approve $50,000.00 discretionary funds.

#32A Vocational Ed

#32B Vocational Ed Transportation: Johanna Swain was present to discuss this budget. Phil Landine asked if it was time to join a vocational school. Johanna said it was cheaper to pay the tuition each year. There are 16 students going to vocational schools. Roger Slobody made a motion to approve. Richard Gobi second. Voted 7-0 to approve the Vocational Ed and Vocational Ed Transportation budgets as presented.

Johanna Swain said the town has 190 street lights. The light at the church costs $7.95 a month.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 30, 2013 at 6 p.m. to meet with the Building Inspector.

Richard Gobi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roger Slobody second. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary