TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
August 24, 2011

Present: Al Collings   Mark Long, Selectman
        Tom Schnare   Barry Nadon, Jr. Selectman
        Phil Landine   Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary
        Roy Roberts   James DiMaio, Tree Warden
        Jack Tivnan   Paul Lupacchino, Fire Chief
        Diane Vayda   Tom O’Donnell, Police Chief
        Richard Gobi   Officer Ed Ward
                      Kevin, Video Equipment Representative
                      Marie Arsenault, Accountant

The meeting was called to order by Chair Al Collings at 6:34 p.m.

Minutes: Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve the minutes of August 10, 2011. Roy Roberts second. Vote 6-1 abstain (Phil Landine) to approve the minutes as presented.

Review FY12 Fall Budget Worksheet: Marie Arsenault reported the estimated free cash to be $647,954.24 and felt this was a good estimate. Johanna Barry said the Quaboag Nursing Home has been sold and will be reclassified from non-profit to profit. Al Collings asked if State Revenue collections were up and the answer was yes. Johanna Barry said building revenues are down. Article #2 Demolition of Remizewski’s House: Johanna said there is an asbestos wrap on the pipes in the cellar. She will have numbers the end of September but it is possible that the cost of asbestos removal will be more than the demolition.

Police Department Video Equipment Replacement: Police Chief Tom O’Donnell, Officer Ed Ward and Kevin, a representative who demonstrated the video equipment were present. He said there are 20,000 units in the field over the past five years. All of Maine and Vermont police have them. When the cruiser is started, the system boots up. It has a pre-event video and a timer can be set for this. You keep the original DVD and it is simple to make copies. Tom Schnare asked how recent is this system. Kevin said this is a 5th generation, 1st generation in late 05 and 2nd generation in 07. Jack Tivnan asked what was the life expectancy. Kevin did not know but it does come with a one year warranty. Al Collings asked what were the maintenance issues and Kevin said almost none. All software upgrades are free and self-install. Jack Tivnan asked if a person could ask to have the system turned off and the answer was it will not be turned off. The person could just not talk. Tom O’Donnell said the new system is an easier system to use. They have had a lot of problems transferring the DVD ram to a DVD and it takes about 45 minutes to do this. Phil Landine asked is it a requirement for officers to use video and the answer was yes. Kevin said that the company does offer another system, which is server based and more expensive, and departments the size of ours is best served with the unit he brought.
Kevin demonstrated how the equipment worked. The Advisory Committee went outside to see the present system in the cruiser and this was demonstrated by Officer Ward. The new system will be in one piece. The old system has an additional part located in the trunk and there has been a problem with wires fraying. Jack Tivnan made a motion to discuss the purchase of three units, one for each cruiser. Phil Landine seconded the motion. Tom Schnare asked if the units could be transferred to a new car and at what cost. The units can be transferred and can be done by any mechanic and this does not void the warranty. Jack Tivnan made a motion to approve the purchase of three units. Phil Landine second. Vote 6 to approve the purchase and one opposed (Richard Gobi).

Tree Warden Request for Funds: Tree Warden Jim DiMaio was present. He presented a Public Notice of Tree Removal of 14 trees to be removed. A Public Hearing will be held at the Town Hall on September 1, 2011 at 7 p.m. He also presented a list of hazardous trees that need immediate removal. He stated that he has had a lot of calls from residents regarding trees that are dead and/or pose a hazard to the public. He needs $15,000.00 to do this and this amount will take him to June. Barry Nadon asked if there were any trees that the Highway Department could take down to save money and the answer was that he could get a better price if he had one person do all the work. The Highway Department is doing some trimming now but the tree warden said they can only reach so high. Jack Tivnan made a motion to give the tree warden $15,000.00. Roy Roberts second. Vote 7-0 to approve. Barry Nadon told the tree warden that next time he should go to the Selectmen first.

WBTV Revolving account request: Al Collings said that Barry Gillogly could not come tonight but will come to the next meeting.

Fire Department Issues: Paul Lupacchino was present. Paul said that engine #1 needs body repair. He has a preliminary estimate of $29,186.00 but realistically it may be $40,000.00 and he is asking for this amount. He stated that if repaired, engine #1 should be good for an additional 20 years. To replace this engine, it would cost $500-$600,000.00. It is mechanically sound and only needs to replace the tires. Al Collings asked him to get a formal bid and return for discussion and a vote and review with Selectmen. The 1977 Forestry Truck has 11,147 miles on it. It was designed to take off the chassis and put a new one on and give the used one to the Highway Department but this never happened. He stated we are looking at more and bigger brush fires in the future. Paul Lupacchino talked about a beginning a matching retirement fund for the firefighters in an effort for a “retention and recruitment policy.” In order for the Town to provide a 50% match, the firefighter must contribute. Al Collings asked Paul to talk to Treasurer Keith Arsenault for his input. Paul said he needs to purchase 10 more new pagers that are two-channel. They are now borrowing from the rescue squad. They cost
$600.00 each. Paul asked how can we enforce the House # By-law as emergency departments have a hard time locating a house particularly at night. We will ask Town Counsel and do more research.

At 8:25 p.m. the meeting was recessed to the Elementary School. Bret Kustigan met us at the door and took us on a tour of the boiler room, the site of old boiler removal, new motion lights in the gym, lighting in the cafeteria, new computer lab and smartboards. The new clocks will be in shortly. All work is expected to be completed by October 15, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary