TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
December 8, 2015

Present: Lori Loughlin
Brad Hibbard
Phil Landine
Robert Blozie
Tom Long

Absent: Richard Gobi
Pam Griffing

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Lori Loughlin at 6:30 p.m.

The Advisory Committee was on this evening’s Selectboard agenda with the Board of Health, Water Commissioners and the Treasurer to discuss the New Braintree Road Water Line Project.

Present at Selectboard meeting:

Selectboard: Diane Vayda, Jack Tivnan, Sarah Allen,
Johanna Swain, Executive Secretary
Advisory Committee: See above
Board of Health: Melvin Dorman, John Frizzell, Jason Paquette
Water Department: Commissioners Barry Nadon, Sr., Bob Benson, Lester Paquette
Superintendent Wes Cassavant
McClure Engineering: Chris McClure

Selectman Jack Tivnan read a letter from the Board of Health requesting to be put on tonight’s agenda. The West Brookfield Board of Health has identified an emergency that is a public health risk to the residents of New Braintree Road up to and including the Wickaboag Sportsmen Club. The Board of Health has determined through DEP testing that the well at the Sportsman’s Club contains an unacceptable level of toxins and that the contamination is coming from the old town dump site. A second residential well has recently tested with unacceptable levels. It was previously determined that a permanent resolution to the problem is an extension of the Water Department water line to the affected area. It has been determined that this is a town issue and payment for the extension should be the responsibility of the town. It is the Board of Health’s belief that the construction/extension of the line should be managed by the Water Department since they are responsible for the operation and maintenance of the town’s water system.

General discussion was held about additional funding, temporary easements to run lines from road to houses, prevailing wages, engineering plans, etcetera. Selectman Tivnan said the Selectboard does not have the authority to say who will do the project but asked
the Water Department to step up to the plate and oversee the construction project. Diane Vayda asked the Water Department if they would oversee the management of the project and the Water Commissioners responded they would assist the Board of Health. Water Commissioner Bob Benson said it was not profitable for the Water Department to put in the lines due to the limited number of additional customers they would gain. It was explained that the town would be paying for the construction and the Water Department would be the beneficiary of any additional customers at no cost to them. At the suggestion of Selectman Tivnan, the Board of Health agreed to work with an engineer to draft an RFP to get the project going. The Water Commissioners and Superintendent Cassavant agreed to oversee the construction phase of the project. There is currently $175,000 in approved borrowed funds, a portion of which can be used to cover the initial engineering costs. Brad Hibbard suggested appointing a member of the Selectboard as a liaison to work with the Water Department and Board of Health to determine the scope of the project and represent the Town’s interest as the project progressed. Jack Tivnan agreed to be the liaison.

Phil Landine asked the Selectboard if the Fire Chief has been reappointed and the answer was that they could not discuss it.

Lori Loughlin asked if the Selectboard was ready to meet with the Advisory Committee and School Committee to discuss the 2/1/2 override criteria on December 22, 2015. They replied that they were and a meeting was set for that date.

A request for transfer of funds from the Reserve Fund to the Electrical Inspector’s salary account in the amount of $4,075.20 was tabled until the next meeting.

Brad Hibbard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phil Landine second. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary