TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 14, 2012

Present: Al Collings   Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary
         Phil Landine   Mark Long, Selectman
         Jack Tivnan   Joe Scanlon, QRHS Financial Director
         Diane Vayda   Bret Kustigian, Superintendent of Schools
         Tom Long      Marie Arsenault, Accountant
         Keith Arsenault, Treasurer
         John Dolan, School Committee
         Lori Loughlin, School Committee

The meeting was called to order by Chair Al Collings at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes: Jack Tivnan made a motion to accept the minutes of March 7, 2012. Diane Vayda second. Voted 5-0 to accept the minutes of March 7, 2012 as presented.

#32 Education Budget: Bret Kustigian, Joe Scanlon, John Dolan, and Lori Loughlin were present representing the Education Budget. Bret Kustigian presented a power point overview of the Initial Fiscal Year 2013 Operational Budget, which included capital requests, school choice and the operating budget. A 27-page pamphlet was provided.

Bret Kustigian thanked West Brookfield for approving (via debt exclusion) an upgrade for the technology and facilities at Elementary School. He said now the number one priority is to improve and upgrade the technology at QMHS and WCES to provide an equal education for all students. Once again, the QRSD will propose a debt exclusion vote to the Town of Warren. If approved the average cost to a single family in Warren will be $81.16 a year or $6.76 a month. The rate will significantly decrease over time and will be paid off in five years. This was figured on a 3.5% borrowing rate. School Choice: Beginning in 2001, Quaboag was sending out more students than bringing in and now bringing in more than sending out. It was felt students leaving Quaboag were going to vocational educational schools. Those coming to Quaboag were mostly from Southbridge. The 2013 Operating budget draft is a level service budget and the 2012 budget has been frozen since December in hopes of pre-buying supplies etc. Al Collings said you are not looking to save money and Bret said they will spend it all. Bret does not want to cut programs. Al Collings said that a 2.1% increase should be workable but it looks like the budget is up more like 6%. Al Collings said there are two solutions to fund this budget and they are to cut other departments or look for an override. Phil Landine asked if the cafeteria was making money and the answer was yes. Jack Tivnan asked how up-to-date are the books and the answer was they are holding. Bret Kustigian said they will go back and “sharpen their pencils.”
A draft of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant was passed out to be reviewed and discussed at our next meeting on March 21, 2012.

Jack Tivnan made a motion to adjourn. Diane Vayda second. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary