TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 17, 2014

Present: Roger Slobody
Brad Hibbard
Phil Landine
Kevin Paquette
Tom Long

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Long at 6 p.m.

MINUTES: Correction: Add: Discussed having the Fire Chief submit warrants quarterly. Roger Slobody made a motion to approve the minutes with correction. Kevin Paquette second. Vote 4 to approve with correction and 1 abstain (Phil Landine).

BUDGETS:

#38 COUNCIL ON AGING: Director Cindy Norden and Bev Casavant were present to discuss the budget. Cindy Norden said the Council on Aging turned back to the Town $6,000 last year. They receive from Irving England Trust $5,000, Country Bank $2,000, a donation from North Brookfield $500. They plan to use these funds to replace the carpet. The Formula Grant was $8,000 and they have $10,000 in Medicar donations. Roger Slobody made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Brad Hibbard second. Vote 5-0 to approve the budget as presented.

#21 FIRE DEPARTMENT: General discussion with Fire Chief Paul Lupacchino on the Fire Department salary and expense budget items and reasons for requested increases. The Fire Department spends their entire budget and never turns back any money. The Committee recommended giving 10% raises to firefighters excluding stipends and reducing requested FY2015 Expenses $3,413.00. Roger Slobody made a motion to approve $54,413.53 for total wages, which includes 10% raises for firefighters excluding stipends and $50,000 for expenses – total budget of $104,413.53. Brad Hibbard second. Vote 5-0 to approve $104,413.53 for Fire Department budget. Question asked where is the tanker. Paul Lupacchino explained that is housed behind Ace Hardware. The Rescue Squad has paid the rent of $9,600 a year but cannot continue to do this and the truck will not fit in the fire station. He would like the Town to build a facility. Paul presented a chart for Fire Department Recruitment/Retention Incentive. It is projected to cost the Town $150,000 over time and the firefighters will not contribute to the plan. Advised to discuss with the Selectmen.

#26 HAZARDOUS WASTE: General discussion with Hazardous Waste Coordinator Brian Charron on his budget, which is level funded. Roger Slobody made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Brad Hibbard second. Vote 5-0 to approve the Hazardous Waste Coordinator’s budget as presented.
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#46 COMMON COMMITTEE: Robert Richard and Betty DiMaio were present to discuss the Common Committee budget. General discussion about charging vendors for electricity. Asparagus Festival gives the Common Committee a $1500 donation. Roger Slobody made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Kevin Paquette second. Vote 5-0 to approve the budget as presented.

Phil Landine made a motion to recommend to the Selectmen to have the Fire Department submit payroll and expense warrants each pay period (every two weeks). Kevin Paquette second. Vote 5-0 to recommend to the Selectmen to have the Fire Department submit payroll and expense warrants each pay period.

Brad Hibbard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Paquette second. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long  
Secretary