TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 17, 2015

Present: Brad Hibbard
Phil Landine
Tom Long
Kevin Paquette (late)
Lori Loughlin

Absent: Richard Gobi

The Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Tom Long at 6:25 p.m.

Bret Kustigian, Superintendent of Schools for the Quaboag Regional School District and Camie Lamica, Director of Finance and Operations were present. Bret gave a power point presentation of the FY2016 school budget of $17,364,715. They are requesting an above the State required minimum contribution of $516,572 from West Brookfield and $823,433 from Warren. At 7:00 p.m. the meeting was continued in the Treasurer’s Office so that Brett and Camie could explain the school budget request in further detail. The seven positions were added to the budget by the School Committee at their 3/16 meeting. We explained our desire to come to agreement on an acceptable level of funding over the mandated minimum.

Request for Transfer from the Reserve Fund: $2903.60 was requested to be transferred to the Selectmen’s Expense Account to pay Lagrant Electric to wire fire station and town hall $603.60 and purchase (2) refurbished biometric hand readers – Harpers $2300.00. The Advisory Committee voted unanimously to fund the wiring and purchase of the time clocks. Kevin Paquette signed the transfer request.

Joint meeting with Selectmen: Present: Sarah Allen and Diane Vayda, Selectboard, Johanna Swain, Executive Secretary. Absent: Barry Nadon.

The meeting was called to order by Diane Vayda at 7:10 p.m.

Planning Board members were present. Planning Board Warrant Article #21: Amend zoning map entitled Groundwater Protection District to include Zone II area for wells 3, 4, and 5. Public Hearing will be held at their next meeting. Planning Board Warrant Article #20: Acquire by gift or purchase a parcel of 13 acres located on Shea Road, an Open Space Parcel on a Definitive Subdivision Plan titled “Shea Acres. Discussion of article by Planning Board, Conservation and Representative of Shea Acres.

7:40: Open Warrant

Article 11: Reserve fund amount $25,000.
Article 12: Lease or purchase police vehicles or debt exclusion. Need to talk to Police Chief.
Article 13: Chapter 90 money amount $60,000.
Article 14: Town Road Maintenance Account amount $50,000.
Article 15: Ground speed controls for highway trucks amount $24,000 (for three).
Highway Superintendent Jim Daley said he was okay with purchasing only one.
Article 16: Water Line New Braintree Road $150,000. Sarah Allen said that a water line was needed because of leakage from landfill to wells. Board of Health has applied for a low interest loan for $132,000 and remainder to raise is $13,700.
Article 17: Adopt layout of School Street/East Main Street. Jim Daley said the project if funded by State and Federal money. Representative will be at Town Meeting.
Article #18: Updated smoke detectors and panel in Town Hall $8,545.73. When questioned, the Fire Chief stated the age of the detectors exceeded manufacturer recommendations but were not in violation of the fire code.
Article #19: PILOT Agreement with Keith Arsenault. Will set up a meeting with Keith.
Article #20 & 21: See discussion previous by Planning Board.
Article #22: Automatic Sprinkler System Multiple Dwelling Units. Sarah Allen said to strike the article.
Article #23: Intake valves for Fire Engine One amount $10,000.
Article #24: Site survey from safety complex. Sarah said to strike the article.
Article #25: Pay for Fire Department Storage $80,000. Phil Landine asked Fire Chief if Rescue Squad could build a building.
Article #26: Windows for Fire Station $15,000.
Article #27: Paint and letter Tanker $20,000. When questioned, the Fire Chief said the truck had been lettered (with decals) to bring it into legal compliance but stated it has not been painted.
Article #28: New Forestry Truck $150,000. Fire Chief says present truck is 38 years old. When asked about mileage, he stated fire trucks have low mileage bur are measured by hours used. When asked about trading in old one, he stated he would like to keep it if he could.
Article #29: Fire truck replacement account amount $35,000.
Article #30: Exit signs for fire station $3,000.
Article #31: ATV for Fire Department $60,000. Fire Chief said this was for the Fire and Police Departments to use for search and rescue. Advisory Committee suggested referral of this request to the Regionalization Committee for discussion and possible identification of grant funding.
Article #32: Siren Repairs $10,000. Fire Chief would like to begin using siren to alert residents of a fire or tornado. Phil Landine questioned if grant funding was available for this article as Spencer was attempting a similar project. The Fire Chief said he didn’t know.
Article #33: Refinish fire station wood floors $7,000.
Article #34: Vehicle Exhaust Vent for Fire Station: No amount. The Selectboard asked the Fire Chief to research cost of installing the system.

Article #35: WBES Playground $25,000. Elementary School Principal said they did not need the money and to strike the article.

Article #36: Sidewalk North Main Street $20,000. Melinda Czub said she requested the sidewalk, a safety issue for her child to walk to school. Tree removal and stonewall issues and easements need to be addressed with homeowners. Phil Landine suggested in the meantime that the child could ride the bus to school.

A town employee asked the BOS if they were going to discuss cost of living raises. When questioned, the Advisory Committee reiterated their thoughts that potential modifications to the current health insurance plans could be sued to offset all or a portion of a COLA.

Brad Hibbard asked the Board where they were on discussions with the union and town employees on the proposed changes to the Town’s health insurance plan. Johanna Swain said we needed to have an insurance committee to do this. Brad said that the Advisory Committee had established a working group to research the potential for cost savings and that the Advisory Committee had forwarded the results of their work to the Selectboard some time ago. Johanna said she needed to look into the law on this. Brad questioned why she had not brought this to our attention months ago.

The Advisory Committee will meet on Monday, March 23, 2015 at 6:15 p.m. and will meet on Wednesday March 25, 2015 at 5 p.m. to meet with Selectmen at 5 p.m. and the School at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary