TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 4, 2011

Present:  Al Collings        Marie Arsenault, Accountant
          Tom Schnare        Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary
          Roy Roberts       Barry Nadon, Jr., Selectman
          Jack Tivnan
          Diane Vayda

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

Minutes: Roy Roberts made a motion to approve the minutes. Diane Vayda second.
Vote 5-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

Review May 3, 2011 election results and discuss implications for May 10, 2011 Town Meeting: Al Collings met for 1 ½ hour to talk about the warrant with Linda Plante, Moderator, Keith Arsenault, Treasurer, Sarah Allen, Town Clerk, Marie Arsenault, Accountant, Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary prior to this meeting.

Article #27: Vote to authorize the debt authorized by the Quaboag Regional School Committee estimated to be $700,486.00: Project 2, Replace School Clock system, Project 3, Upgrade to energy-efficient lighting inside and out, and Project 4, Repairs to concrete slab outside nurse’s office are not doable and should pass over. Would like to put the heating system in this summer. The article cannot be amended. There would have to be a new meeting to deal with a new article. Al Collings would like to pass over. The vote for the debt exclusion passed at election. If the Town were borrowing the money it would take a 2/3 vote but the School is borrowing the money and a majority vote is needed. Al Collings will talk with Bret Kustigian and suggest passing over.

Al Collings had a discussion about the excess over minimum with Bret Kustigian and suggested $50,000.00 West Brookfield, $75,000.00 Warren. Bret wanted $65,000.00. Barry Nadon asked Warren about it and they are recommending zero. Al Collings told Bret Kustigian he could make an amendment but if you are over $50,000.00 we would disapprove it. Jack Tivnan said the School Committee is out of control and we should send them a message and give them nothing. Al Collings said we are going to need some type of formula for the school so we can manage the budget and asked Bret for a commitment to work with us on this. Diane Vayda said last week Bret Kustigian thought Warren was giving $200,000.00. Barry Nadon said they went with zero. Al Collings asked the Advisory Committee can we support $50,000.00. Jack Tivnan made a motion to support $50,000.00 for excess over minimum for the school. Roy Roberts second. Vote 5-0 to support the motion. If the motion passes, it will be taken out of free cash and the other line items will be taken out of stabilization.
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New Member: Al Collings talked with Bev Kenniston and she said that Mert would be interested. Tom Schnare would like to have the new member be one who has not served on the Committee before.

There will be a motion to separate the school budget out of the Omnibus Budget. Each portion will be addressed separately.

The Advisory Committee will meet next Monday, May 9, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. with the West Brookfield Board of Selectmen and the Warren Board of Selectmen.

Jack Tivnan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Roy Roberts second. Vote unanimous to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary