TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 4, 2019

Present: Lori Loughlin
Brad Hibbard
Tom Long
Craig Carter
Doug Aspinall

Absent: Pam Griffing
Roland Sickenberger

Others Present: Phil Landine (late)
Linda MacCoy-COA
Dick Rossman-Historical
Dam Hamilton-Historical
Jim DiMaio-Tree Warden
Al Collings-Lake Wickaboag
Bret Kustigian-School
Sharon Sumpter-School

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Lori Loughlin at 6:15 p.m.

MINUTES: Brad Hibbard made a motion to approve the minutes of December 18, 2018 as presented. Tom Long second. Vote 4 to approve one abstention (Craig Carter).

COUNCIL ON AGING BUDGET #38: Director Linda MacCoy was present and her budget was reviewed. She is looking into Elder Affair grants for funding for an emergency generator for the center. A Mass Electric Audit recommends the current hot water heater be replaced with a more efficient model. She believes it may be replaced without cost to the town. She also advised all the Center’s smoke detectors need to be replaced as they are over 10 years old. She gave a report of current activities and attendance at the Senior Center. Director MacCoy presented her budget request to the committee. The committee identified numerous errors in the document and advised her to meet with the Accountant to reconcile the differences.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION #43: Dick Rossman and Dan Hamilton were present and advised it is not possible for the commission to receive grant funding for the painting of and repairs to the Town Hall this year. They would like to be able to make some repairs now (front railing, granite, front doors and back door hinges and sills). The Commission has hired an architectural engineer to conduct a survey of building needs. The Advisory Committee suggested they ask the engineer for a prioritized list of needed repairs with the projected costs. It may be possible to place additional funding into the Town Hall Maintenance Account to address the necessary repairs. Their request for an article was tabled pending further information.

TREE WARDEN & INSECT CONTROL BUDGETS #30 & #31: Jim Dimaio was present to review his budget. He has taken down 50 trees this year and is continually receiving calls. He estimates there are approximately 80-90 trees that need to be removed at this time. He works with the Highway Department and National Grid to mitigate the cost of removing the trees. Mr. Dimaio requests an increase $41,000 for tree
removal and police details. The committee will meet with the Select Board to discuss the requested increase.

**LAKE WICKABOAG BUDGET #45:** Al Collings was present. He said last year his budget was $16,000 and asks that it remain the same for FY20. He noted they have under spent their budget the last couple of years because a second treatment for algae was not needed. The excess funding has been returned to the town. He informed that the dam flashboards have been damaged and require repair. Funding for dam repair rests within the Select Board’s budget and he requests an additional $2-3,000 be placed in the budget to cover the cost of repairs. He provided an update on the dredging project. The town has received $50,000 from the State which will be used to identify a suitable site to dispose of dredge material.

**QUABOAG REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET #32:** Superintendent Bret Kustigian was present and introduced Finance Director Sharron Sumpter. He provided preliminary figures but has not made his final presentation to the School Committee. He provided information on projected increases in the areas of SPED services, additional staff requests and sick leave buy back due to the expected retirement of 5 teachers. He will be meeting with the School Committee on March 11th to review the budget. The School Committee is scheduled to vote on the budget March 18th. Craig Carter will attend the March 11th meeting on behalf of our committee. Dr. Kustigian also provided an update on the WBES window and door project and needed capital projects at the middle-high school. The superintendent has been talking to Spencer, East Brookfield and North Brookfield relative to the potential of expanding the district to include other towns.

**MEETINGS:** Our next meeting will be March 11, 2019 at 6:15 p.m. Secretary will ask the Library, Recreation, Planning Board, Assessors, and Veterans Agent to attend. The Advisory budget will be reviewed.

March 18, 2019 at 6:15 p.m.: The Advisory Committee requested a joint meeting with Select Board to review the Fire, Police and Highway budgets. Phil Landine will confirm the date with the other BOS members.

Tom Long made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Craig Carter seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long, Secretary