TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
March 21, 2012

Present:  
Al Collings       Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary  
Phil Landine      Mark Long, Selectman  
Diane Vayda      Marie Arsenault, Accountant  
Tom Long          Teresa Barrett, Tax Collector  
Cindy Norden, Director, Council on Aging  
& 2 Trustees  
Carrie Grimshaw, Librarian & 3 Trustees

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

Minutes:  Al Collings made a motion to accept the minutes.  Phil Landine Second.  
Voted 4-0 to accept the minutes of March 14, 2012 as presented.

Review of Budget Requests:

#38 Council on Aging:  Cindy Norden was present to review her budget.  She stated that the septic was straightened out by R.H. White, Auburn.  The building is being painted and the floors buffed by the prisoners.  The cost is $1,000.00 for supplies.  Utilities are under control and having the filters changed has made a difference.  We have received $2,000.00 from Country Bank, which was used to put up valences.  We received $3,000.00 from the Irving England Trust.  The Cultural Grant was $1,400.00, which is used for programs.  The formula grant will be less next year.

#41 Library:  Carrie Grimshaw was present to review her budget.  There is an issue with the connector point where the elevator meets.  The insurance has paid for the internal leak damage and this will be repaired after the connector is repaired.  She has a $25,000.00 estimate.  Because she felt the estimate was high, she called Paul Lussier for an estimate and he will come back and go up on the roof and give her a report.  The computers for the library are in the tech budget.  Carrie said that during the October storm the library responded to the town.  Residents came in to use phones, charge their phones, use the computers and internet, etc.  The children’s summer reading program is sponsored by LLC and local businesses.  All the programs at the library are free.  Al Collings asked are there things that we provide for free that we should consider charging.  The Librarian and trustees present thought that they did better by not charging because people left donations, which probably amounted to more than they could charge.  Marie Arsenault said by charging fines, the money would go to the town’s general fund and with donations the money would go directly to the library.  There was question about the formula to meet library certification.  This will be reviewed.  This is a three part formula and will prepare to meet certification.
TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 21, 2012

Page 2

Tax Collector/Parking Clerk: Teresa Barrett was present to review her budget. She presented a Tax Collector’s Totals Sheet posted through March 4, 2012. She said collections are staying pretty level. Parking Clerk is level funded.

Revision to School Budget: West Brookfield’s contribution above minimum is $132,790.00. It is unknown what Warren will do and this number may change.

FY Budget Worksheet: Johanna Barry went over the worksheet. We are $49,342.25 short under Raise and Appropriate. Question of where we could get money for the server and Johanna said we could use Town Hall Maintenance Account. Some items could be put off to fall. Johanna Barry said that we need to get this together. The Warrant has to be printed and mailed to the residents. A lot depends on what happens with the school and what Warren decides. We could put the Grant Writer and Tax Title onto the fall meeting and reduce the Road Improvements from $150,000 to $125,000. Committee will look at individual budgets next week.

Fountain: The Common Committee met with Selectmen. They will look for grants and donations to repair and the fountain may be taken apart and stored until restored. J.P. Ellery will write an article. The Fountain has always been repaired by donations.

Tom Long asked if the Town had property to sell. Johanna said we can look into it and she will get a list of all Town properties. Secretary will ask Keith Arsenault, Treasurer to attend our next meeting to discuss tax possession properties.

Al Collings said we do not need to have Brian Charron, Hazardous Waste, come in next week unless he has issues to discuss. Secretary will notify.

Tom Long made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phil Landine second. Voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary