TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
March 27, 2017

Present: Brad Hibbard  
Phil Landine  
Tom Long  
Pam Griffing  
Robert Blozie 7 p.m.

Absent: Lori Loughlin  
Richard Gobi

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Brad Hibbard at 6:15 p.m.

MINUTES: Phil made a motion to approve the minutes of March 20, 2017 as presented. Pam Griffing second. Vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of March 20, 2017 as presented.

BUDGET #46 COMMON: Rayne Petruzzi and Melinda Mathieson were present to discuss the Common Budget. The FY18 budget was compiled using actual expenditures of the prior year. The committee was provided the prior year actual expenditures. Rayne said they had used their entire budget and answered questions regarding particular items. Rayne Petruzzi showed the Advisory Committee a water bill for the July through September for $1500 which translates to usage of 66,000 gallons of water. She said the common water bill has never been this high and that they questioned the Water Department secretary who told them they recently installed new meters and that the usage count was correct. The bill is for water used for the fountain and two bubblers; the bandstand is on a separate meter for which they pay the minimum of $55 per quarter. The Advisory Committee advised them to ask to get on the agenda at a future Select Board meeting for guidance. Several modifications to line items were made. Rayne explained the need to come up with a consistent policy for the payment for electricity used by vendors during events on the common. The Common Committee currently pays the bill. The Common Committee would like to look into having an independent contractor mow the common. The Advisory Committee referred them to the Select Board. The Advisory Committee asked if they received money from the Irving England Fund suggested they write a requesting funding, perhaps for mowing the common.

BUDGET #36 CEMETERY: Marc Astrella, Dave Swekler and Mike Seery were present to discuss the Cemetery Budget. When questioned about the 17% increase for the new caretaker, it was explained that the current caretaker is a recent hire with a higher level of experience which justified a higher starting wage. The clerk’s hours were increased to reflect an increase in his part time work schedule from 10 to 12 months.
They explained that the unallocated income offset of $12,690 was from a revolving account from the sale of lots and burials and interest from their trust account that was created when the cemetery was established. They can only spend interest from the trust account. The principal is currently approximately $203,000. Tree Warden Jim Dimaio has marked trees is working with the cemetery committee to remove diseased and unsafe trees using funds from the tree warden’s budget.

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT:** The committee agrees with the Select Board’s recommendation to purchase the police vehicle and transfer the Police Department’s 2011 Ford Expedition to the Fire Department. Brad Hibbard read a statement to that effect. Bob Blozie volunteered to read the statement and recommendation at the Special Town Meeting.

**ANNUAL REPORT:** Lori will forward the report to Johanna.

**NEXT MEETINGS:** The Advisory Committee will meet at 6:30pm on March 28, 2017 prior to the Special Town Meeting.

April 3, 2017 - Secretary will ask Chief O’Donnell, Police Budget, Gary Lapine, Veterans Budget and Leah Shattuck, Animal Control Officer and Inspector to come to review their budgets

Meeting adjourned 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary
The meeting was called to order by Chair Lori Loughlin at 6:30 p.m.

General discussion regarding Special Town Meeting Warrant. Bob Blozie will read statement and Advisory Committee’s recommendation to approve the following article:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sum of $43,701.00 to purchase and equip a police cruiser.

Special Town Meeting opened by Moderator at 7:00pm.
General discussion on article. Article passes by majority vote.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary