TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 3, 2014

Present:  Roger Slobody           Johanna Swain, Executive Secretary
          Brad Hibbard               Marie Arsenault, Accountant
          Phil Landine
          Kevin Paquette
          Tom Long

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Long at 6 p.m.

MINUTES: Phil Landine made a motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2014. Roger Slobody second. Voted 5-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

BUDGET REVIEW:

#46 Common Committee: The Common Committee cancelled. Secretary will reschedule.

#41 Library: Library Trustees Mary Magnante, Holly Takorian, Alex McNitt and Paul Spencer were present and Library Director Carrie Grimshaw. Carrie talked about the services provided by the library and increase in usage. She said that 80% of West Brookfield residents had a library card and what the consequences of not being certified. The Town’s appropriations to the library for operations must be increased by 2.5% to stay certified. Phil Landine made a motion to approve the Library Budget with an attempt by the Trustees to cut back and return money to the Town. Roger Slobody second. Voted 5-0 to approve the Library Budget as presented with an attempt by the Trustees to cut back and return money to the Town.

#9 Town Clerk & #10 Elections & Registrations. Town Clerk Sarah Allen was present. The Town Clerk requested that the #10 Elections Budget for FY2015 be reduced by level funding wages and expenses. She requested that the #9 Town Clerk’s budget be reduced by level funding Assistant Town Clerk’ wages and level funding expenses. The Advisory Committee recommended reducing the wage increase for the Town Clerk from the requested 23.46 % increase to 1 ½ % increase. Roger Slobody made a motion to approve budgets #9 and #10 by level funding both budgets with the exception of the Town Clerk’s Salary to be increased 1 ½ % not 23.46% as requested. Kevin Paquette second. Voted 4 to approve the budget as above and 1 abstain (Tom Long).

#48 Central Mass Regional Planning: Johanna Swain said that she has not received the figures from CMRP. Roger Slobody made a motion to approve the CMRP Budget for up to $1,000. Brad Hibbard second. Voted 5-0 to approve the CMRP Budget for up to $1,000.
BUDGET WORKSHEET & WARRANT: Executive Secretary Johanna Swain and Accountant Marie Arsenault went over the FY Budget Worksheet. Johanna explained that the Warrant she put together is a “Wish List” of articles departments had requested from time to time. The Advisory Committee recommends the following:

Article #13: Town Building Maintenance Account $30,000- leave on Warrant
Article #14: Bandstand Repairs-strike from Warrant.
Article #15: Consultant Grant Writer Account-strike from Warrant.
Article #18: Road Maintenance Account-leave on Warrant.
Article #19: Chapter 90-leave on Warrant.
Article #21: Common Fertilizer-strike from Warrant.
Article #22: Grind Brush at Drop Off Center-strike from Warrant.
Article #23: Police Speed Sign-strike from Warrant.
Article #24: Paint & Letter Tanker-strike from Warrant.
Article #26: Reserve Fund-leave on Warrant.
Article #27: Fire Station Windows-strike from Warrant.
Article #28: Tax Title-strike from Warrant.
Article #31: Fire Building-strike from Warrant.
Article #32: Site Survey-strike from Warrant.
Article #33: F450 Highway-leave to fall.

Johanna explained process of Article 6 to changing elected treasurer to appointed treasurer. Marie discussed how the accountant manages the Water Department funds.

Advisory Committee went over upcoming budgets. Tom Long will ask the Fire Department to redo the payroll portion of their budget before coming in.

Roger Slobody made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brad Hibbard second. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary