At 6:15 lacking a quorum with only three members present, the following conversations took place. The Agriculture Committee could not come tonight. We will have them come on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 6:20. The Treasurer and Accountant will come at 6:30 to discuss their budgets and Local Access at 7:15 p.m. Secretary will notify. On May 21, 2015 at 6:30 we will ask the Fire Chief to come to discuss his budget and Hazardous Waste Budget. Secretary will notify.

We need to ask Selectmen when the last date is to have the Advisory Committee’s recommendation on the Articles on the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting and do they want to come to our meeting. Remind Sarah that she needs to make an amendment for the money for the Fire Department Article to be taken out of Fire Truck Stabilization, which is what we all had agreed to do.

With still no quorum, Chairman Richard Gobi decided to discuss the Assessor’s budget. Assessor Bev Kenniston was present. She said the line item for Map Changes/Revisions had increased because the price of the new contract had gone up. Line item Meetings and dues/Memberships had increased. She said the $700 software expense used to be in Computer Tech budget but they were told by Computer Tech to put in their own budget. Brad Hibbard stated that there was money in the Tech Budget for Assessors and Bev stated that they needed computers and the money in the Tech Budget was for computers. Brad said we told the Tech Committee that she had money in her account left to buy computers and she should do so. He suggested that she reach out and talk to Teri Barrett.

With a quorum now present, Richard Gobi called the meeting to order at 6:53 p.m.

The question was asked why the mileage line item in the budget increased from $400 to $800 and the answer was that now they had an assistant assessor and that she was out in the field inspecting and taking pictures of properties and after so many years we need to see every property. As of December, they have used $519.00 for mileage for field work. Tom Long asked are you finding buildings in Brookhaven and the answer was yes we are finding a lot of buildings and have notified the enforcement officer. Tom Long said it was very important to pay for more gas in the process of finding additional taxable properties.
Bev Kenniston said that it was a “bare bones” budget. She said that in about five years, the Town should think about having a full time assessor to generate more money for the town picking up new growth. Right now we are keeping things going. Last year we did a reval and this took a lot of time. Lori Loughlin asked did you do every property and how many properties are there and the answer was yes they did all the properties and there are about 2600. The nursing facility has been sold to a non-profit and they are tax exempt. The previous owner paid in lieu of taxes. Bev said they have scheduled a meeting with them. The solar projects will increase new growth. Brad Hibbard made a motion to approve the Assessors budget. Tom Long second. The vote was unanimous to approve the Assessors budget as presented.

POLICE LETTER: Brad Hibbard read the letter from Chief O’Donnell and made a motion to request a copy of Sgt. Lynch’s separation agreement from the Select Board. Tom Long second. Vote was unanimous to request a copy of separation agreement and to send the copy of Chief O’Donnell’s letter.

STEP & GRADE: It was brought to our attention at our last meeting that there were inconsistencies between the step and grade schedule and proposed employee raises in several budgets. Brad Hibbard reviewed and compared the step and grade schedule to employee salaries/raises and noted some inconsistencies. The Advisory Committee recommends that prior to final approval of all FY16 budgets, the Select Board review the step and grade classifications and salary schedule of all town employees and make adjustments as necessary. The Select Board may also want to consider whether to award the optional 1% longevity stipend to 18+ year employees in the coming fiscal year. Brad Hibbard will compose a letter to the Select Board outlining our concerns.

WATER DEPARTMENT: A letter will be sent to the Select Board requesting they accept and formalize the agreement that the Water Department would be responsible for the payment of health and dental insurance costs of their current and future employees as well as said costs of all future Water Department retirees. Brad Hibbard will compose the letter.

RECREATION BUDGET: Teri Barrett has resigned from the Recreation Committee. The Select Board has appointed one new member. The Committee expressed concern that time was running short for developing this summers’ recreational program.

MINUTES: Lori Loughlin made a motion to approve the minutes of April 23, 2015. Brad Hibbard second. Vote was unanimous to accept the minutes of April 23, 2015 as presented.

Brad Hibbard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom Long second. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary