

**TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 25, 2009**

Present:	Al Collings	Tom Long, Selectman
	Tom Schnare	Marie Arsenault, Accountant
	Phil Landine	Johanna Barry, Executive Secretary
	Jack Tivnan	Barry Nadon, Selectman
	Diane Vayda	Tim Batchelor, Fire Chief
	Nicole Allen	John Frizzell, Board of Health
		Melvin Dorman, Board of Health
		Sarah Allen, Secretary Board of Health
		Bret Kustigan, QRHS Superintendant

Minutes: Jack Tivnan made a motion to accept the minutes of February 11, 2009 as presented. Phil Landine seconded the motion. Voted 6-0 to accept the minutes.

FY 2009 & 2010 Budget Issues: Al Collings reviewed budget forecast. He talked with the School and their numbers are lower than anticipated possibly \$100,000.00. The selectmen voted at their meeting to remove the article on the warrant for Fire House windows in the amount of \$8,000.00 and do the work under the maintenance account. It is anticipated that there will be \$215,716.00 of unspent free cash at the end of the October meeting. Johanna Barry said she expects to turn back over \$150,000.00 from vocational education account.

Police Department Building Status: Johanna Barry reported that the Selectmen met with the Warren Selectmen last evening and discussed the possibility of separate Police Departments under one roof. Warren will schedule a meeting with their police department and see what property is available. The old rest area on Route 9 was found to be owned by Cliff Fountain and not the State. The Police Building Committee has been disbanded and taken under advisement by the Selectmen. It was felt that the St Hilaire property might be good to acquire. Could possibly be used for an urban structure. The Selectmen would like to have a Fleet Schedule established for Infrastructure.

Department Budgets: Tim Batchelor was present to answer questions regarding the Fire Department Budget. Article #15 is for \$7,500.00 for turnout gear which will outfit three firemen. Tom Schnare questioned what was purchased under the line item of new equipment. Tim Batchelor said he did not bring his spread sheet with him. After meeting with the Selectmen on March 10, he will return to the Advisory Committee meeting on March 11 with his spreadsheet. Article #14 Thermal Imaging Camera: Current camera was purchased probably around 1998 and has already had a lot of maintenance. Tim explained how the camera works and is a valuable asset for his department. There is no real trade in value. When asked what would not get done with the 5% turn back, Tim stated that he would not be able to do projects in the fire station, general maintenance or paint and letter the small trailer. When asked how many firemen there were and if this

**TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 25, 2009**

Page 2

was enough, he replied that he had 18 firemen but really should have 24 as they are not all available when needed. The Advisory Committee requested that he turn in payroll December, April and June. Tim invited the Advisory Committee to visit the fire station to see how clean and kept up it is.

John Frizzell, Melvin Dorman, Board of Health members and Sarah Allen, secretary to the Board were present to answer questions regarding the budget. Questions were raised for Article #20 Repairs to Wigwam Landfill. Melvin Dorman said six years ago they did some repairs and some ongoing maintenance. Now there is heavy growth that needs to be cut, treat the vegetation, drainage swales need to be cleaned out and there is some erosion on the cover material. The time has come to repair the landfill before roots penetrate and tear the lining. The landfill was capped in 1997. The Board of Health was unable to get a grant for this project. Al Collings asked if we could use the reserve fund for this project. It was determined that this was not unforeseen or an emergency project. The Advisory Board asked if the Board of Health could raise permit fees. They stated that they could raise fees and will review. The Board of Selectmen does other permits.

Quaboag Regional High School Superintendent: Our new Superintendent, Bret Kustigan came to our meeting after attending another. He apologized for not being able to come to our last meeting due to a family emergency. He was very enthusiastic and talked about redirecting programs with a fresh set of eyes looking at them. He stated that the administration salary increases would not be 5% but more in the range of what the teachers would get. He is concerned about the amount of the legal fees for the track litigation. The budget has been frozen and the auditors are in. He said it is "okay for the remainder of the year but "tight." Al Collings requested a line item budget document to review when it is ready.

Next meeting will be **March 11, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.** Fire Chief Tim Batchelor and Police Chief Tom O'Donnell will be present. Al Collings will be meeting with the Librarian tomorrow.

Nicole Allen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Diane Vayda seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine M. Long
Secretary