Town of West Brookfield-Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting - Regular Session – January 28, 2014
LOCATION: Lower Level Conference Meeting Room – Town Hall  TIME: 6:15PM
PRESENT:  Mark Long, Barry Nadon Jr. and Diane Vayda - Selectmen, Johanna Swain – Exec Sec and members of
the press & cable tv.

Call To Order: 6:15PM  - The meeting was called to order by Mark at 6:15pm

Accept Minutes:
Diane motioned to accept the minutes of December 19, 2013 (Regular Session). Second Barry. The Board voted
Diane & Barry – yes, Mark – abstain.

Diane motioned to accept the minutes of December 19, 2013 (Executive Session). Second Barry. The Board voted
Diane & Barry – yes, Mark – abstain.

Cemetery Care Taker – Burial Grounds Commissioners/Advisory Committee/Highway:
(Tom Long, Brad Hibbard, Phil Landine & Roger Slobody – Advisory Committee, Christine Long – Clerk to
Advisory Committee, Jim Daley – Highway Superintendent, Gregg Waterman & Steve Pilch – Highway Employees,
John Bartlett & Kevin Roberts – Burial Grounds Commissioners)
The Board reviewed a written recommendation from the Advisory Committee dated 1/17/14. John Bartlett stated
that he did not see savings with migrating duties to the Highway Department. Barry Nadon Jr. stated that the
Highway could hire part time help. Phil Landine asked about “summer help” rules. Barry Nadon Jr. stated that
“summer help” has changed in recent years due to the economy and the Town would run the risk of the employee
being able to collect unemployment benefits. John Bartlett stated that a part time person working 19 hours per week
would not be sufficient. Supt. Daley stated that money needed to be transferred from both the Common budget and
Cemetery budget; should the Highway end up managing the tasks being discussed. Tom Long stated that the Town
needs to consolidate in an effort to save money. Barry Nadon Jr. stated that he expected the cost for the cemetery
maintenance to run about $18,300; which would yield a savings. Supt. Daley stated that there is a cost, it may not
be financial but you will lose other services. Diane Vayda asked about the six month gap from January through
June. John Bartlett and Kevin Roberts both stated that the cemetery has funds to transfer for services. Barry Nadon
Jr. stated that the Highway should inherit the responsibilities starting April 1, 2014. Steve Pilch asked who the
employee(s) would be answering to. The Selectmen said that they would answer to the Highway Superintendent.
Barry motioned to have the Highway start managing the cemeteries effective April 1, 2014. Second Diane. The
Board voted unanimously.

William Jankins & Mike Shea (Palmer Paving Rep.) – Aube Ponds:
Bill told the Board that he had spoken with David Callahan, Senator Brewer and Representative Gobi about naming
the two ponds located on Lake View Avenue “Aube Ponds” in memory of Richard Aube. Barry motioned to
approve the request. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously. Bill stated that the Historical Society would
erect signage accordingly.

Treasurer – Salary Review:
Postponed until the next meeting.

Asparagus & Flower Heritage Festival:
Barry motioned to approve the Asparagus & Flower Heritage Festival for May 17, 2014. Second Diane. The Board
voted unanimously.

Resignations/Appointments:
Barry motioned to accept John Tivnan’s resignation from the Advisory Committee, with regret. Second Diane. The
Board voted unanimously.

Barry motioned to accept Richard Rossman’s resignation from the AFHFC and to appoint Melinda Czub to the
AFHFC. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.
Diane motioned to accept the resignation of S. Patrick Swain as a Full Time Police Officer. Second Barry. The Board voted unanimously.

Upon the recommendation of the Police Chief, Diane motioned to appoint S. Patrick Swain as a Part Time Police Officer. Second Barry. The Board voted unanimously.

Barry motioned to accept Roy Roberts’s resignation from the Advisory Committee, with regret. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

Diane motioned to allow the Police Chief to perform a back round investigation on Craig Charron. Second Barry. The Board voted unanimously.

**Building Permit Fees:**
Upon the recommendation of the Building Inspector, Barry motioned to “Double permit fees when work is started without a permit” effective immediately. Second Diane. The Board voted unanimously.

**7:10 pm Executive Session:**
(Steve Melanson, Ed Ward, Pat Swain & Dave Pierce)
The Board stated that they would be entering into Executive Session. Mr. Steve Melanson stated that he did not realize that the Board was going to go into Executive Session. He asked if they were going into Executive Session to discuss his letter. The Chairman stated “Yes”. Mr. Melanson asked which exemption was being used for the Session. Atty. Chris Brown, Town Counsel, stated that the Board was going into Executive Session pursuant to GL c 30A, s21(a)(7), GL C214, s1B, and Suffolk Construction v. DCAM, 449 Mass. 444 (2007). Atty. Brown furthered stated that no individuals would be discussed during this Session.

Diane motioned to go into Executive Session with the Town Counsel, Chris Brown and Katie Gilfeather from OUTLOOK EAP pursuant to GL c 30A, s21(a)(7), GL C214, s1B, and Suffolk Construction v. DCAM, 449 Mass. 444 (2007) and to adjourn directly thereafter. Second Barry. Barry – yes, Diane – yes and Mark – yes. (Executive Session Minutes are kept separately.)

Respectfully submitted,

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Chairman     Vice Chairman    Clerk