BOARD OF SELECTMEN

P.O. Box 372
West Brookfield, Massachusetts 01585

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 6, 2023

PRESENT: Mr. David Pierce; Chairman, Mr. Roland Sickenberger; Vice-Chairman and Mr. Eric von Bleicken; Clerk
ATTENDEES: Paul Lapenas

Opened the Meeting at 6 PM

QUABOAG TRAIN STATION
Amy Dugas and Jeff Robbins attended the meeting tonight to discuss the Quaboag Train Station which is located next to the Highway Barn. They are looking to secure a long-term lease (99 years) with the town in order for them to be able to apply for grant funding for the much needed repairs to the building. This matter was discuss before however was tabled at the time in order to gather additional information. With no objections from the board and with the understanding that the building will remain property of the town should the Society dissolve, the following motion was made: Motion to contact legal counsel to draft a 99 year lease on the property by and between the Town of West Brookfield and the Quaboag Museum made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous.

TREASURERS POSTION
With the recent resignation of the Treasurer (1-31-23), the board would like to have Strategic Municipal Services do an assessment of where we are and then proceed from there.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CONTRACT
After being recently advised of a potential shortfall in the Executive Secretaries Employment Agreement, the board agreed to re-open the contract early in order to rectify the matter. With no objections from either side the following motion was made: Motion to re-open the employment agreement for Rebecca Acerra and to further meet on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 at 5:30 PM for negotiations made by Mr. Sickenberger; second: Mr. von Bleicken – unanimous.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE
The Board met with the Advisory Committee this evening to review the FY 24 budget among other matters that were on the agenda:
Proposition 2 ½ Override – tabled for this year. A grass roots effort will need to be put forth in order for the residents to have ample time to ask questions.
Insurance – verify coverage on equipment/vehicles.
Compensation study – more funds have been made available. The office will check into.
Police Budget – in light of the new Chief now in place, this matter tabled until Chief Hagglund has a chance to speak with Ms. Griffing.

Fire Budget – approximately 17% over budget. AC asked the Chief to rework the numbers. Mrs. Griffing will follow up in an email with him.
Town Administrator – both the job description and posting were sent to counsel on January 30th. Waiting for feedback.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra

Rebecca Acerra
Executive Secretary

Eric von Bleicken, Clerk
2-7-23
Date Approved