BOARD OF SELECTMEN

P.O. Box 372
West Brookfield, Massachusetts 01585

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2024

PRESENT: Mr. Roland Sickenberger; Chair, Mr. Eric von Bleicken; Vice-Chair, Mr. Brad Merkel, Clerk (at 6:15 pm) and Mr. Ronald San Angelo, Town Administrator
ATTENDEES: Lori Loughlin

Called Meeting to Order at 6:02 PM

MINUTES
Motion to approve the Minutes of December 12, 2023, as written made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger - unanimous.
Motion to approve the Minutes of January 2, 2024, as written made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

Museum Lease – 27 Front Street –***TABLED – Awaiting further paperwork.***

Police Department Appointment
Mr. San Angelo advised the Board of Selectmen that Part-time Officer Kara Hartung was appointed to an open Full-time position within the department. Ofc. Hartung has been with the department for several years and was recommended by both the Union and Chief Hagglund.

Proposition 2 ½ Override – Discussion
Mr. San Angelo provided the Board with a preliminary draft of a handout explaining the 2 ½ Override question. A few minor changes were discussed, and a final review will be done prior to making it available to the public.

FY 25 Budget – Possible vote to move it forward to the Advisory Committee
As a follow up to the discussion at last week's budget presentation meeting, the Board had an opportunity to review the document prior to moving it forward to the Advisory Committee. The school budget is representative of a 2% increase; however, it is merely a placeholder currently. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:
Motion to move the FY 25 Budget to the Advisory Committee for consideration made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

Dedication of Town Parcels associated with MassDOT Project No. 606517 – Vote Expected
In a continuing measure to meet the requirements for the land takings, the following motion was made:

Motion to dedicate town parcels of land associated with the MassDOT Project No. 606517 as provided by Town Counsel made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

Lake Wickaboag Special Use Permits as shown on Attachment A – Vote Expected
Motion to approve the Lake Wickaboag Special Use Permit requests as presented made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

ABCC Seasonal Population – Vote Expected
Motion to approve and sign the 2024 ABCC Seasonal Population Form in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 138, §17 with a seasonal population of 3,422 as of July 10, 2024, made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

Mill Towns Public Health Coalition – Through the Board of Health – Vote Expected
This program is a shared services program with the Town of Ludlow as the lead community. With no further discussion, the following motion was made:
Motion to approve and sign the Inter-Municipal Agreement for the Mill Towns Public Health Coalition for Shared Services made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

Treasury Warrants – Vote Expected
Motion to approve and sign the Treasury Warrant No. 24 P 14 and 24 W 14, dated January 11, 2024, in the amounts of $100,814.28 and $110,554.10 respectively made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

Other Business - *None*

Town Administrators Report
Mr. San Angelo met with the Superintendent Eric Duda from Pathfinder Regional Vocational HS and the question arose of why West Brookfield is not a member town. He suggested that the Board consider looking into this matter to see what benefits the town would see from joining.

Next Regular Meeting Date: January 23, 2024 – 6 PM

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. von Bleicken; second: Mr. Merkel – unanimous at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Acerra
Executive Asst. to the Town Administrator/
Board of Selectmen

Brad Merkel, Clerk