TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD

BOARD OF SELECTMEN /- TUESDAY, April 30, 2024 – 6:00 PM – *AMENDED AGENDA 4.30.24*

MINUTES

Present:

Mr. Roland Sickenberger; Mr. Eric von Bleicken, Vice Chair; Mr. Brad Merkel, Clerk (late).
Mr. Roland San Angelo, Town Administrator; Beth Gobeille, Executive Assistant BOS/Town Administrator. Advisory Committee members: Kevin McGovern, Sue Chambers, Ron Garceau, Camie Lamica, Melinda Czub, John Vayda. Library: MaryAnn Pelletier, Librarian; Amy Agro, candidate; Jeff Robbins, Library Trustee. Senior Center: Kelly Hitt, Director; Betty Frew, Senior Center Asst.; CPC: David Brown. John Madden, Financial Advisor (attended virtually).

CALL MEETING TO ORDER IN OPEN SESSION

MINUTES

Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of April 16, 2024 as written made by Mr. von Bleicken. Second Mr. Sickenberger - unanimous.

LIBRARY CANDIDATE - DISCUSSION Library Board of Trustees Chair, Jeff Robbins presented final candidate Amy Agro to meet with the Board of Selectmen. Mary Ann Pelletier, previous Librarian for the Merriam Gilbert Library, personally recommended Amy to this role. Ron San Angelo mentioned that all of Ms. Agro's paperwork is coming in, still need to complete Cori check, etc. Salary is within budget. If approved, Ms. Agro will start in 3 weeks' time.

Motion to vote to approve Amy Agro as the Library Director of Merriam Gilbert Public Library as recommended by the Library Board of Trustees at the hourly rate of $27.35 made by Mr. von Bleicken. Second Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

BEER/WINE TASTING EVENT/ Senior Center – *Held until Mr. Brad Merkel is in attendance per Mr. Roland Sickenberger.*

LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS AT SENIOR CENTER – Kelly Hitt indicates that the current situation in Senior Center is dealing with ballast issues and replacing bulbs repeatedly. Ron San Angelo indicates that this follows the same process as with the Town Hall Lighting, 0 % loan. Original amt. $15,448 and using tax credits of $3,310, bal. $12,138 paid back over 7/8 years through cost savings with LED lights. Savings of over $2,000/year. Cost of the project will be a wash.

Motion to agree to the proposal submitted by Energy Conservation re: Lighting Improvements at the Senior Center by Mr. Eric von Bleicken. Second by Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous.

Back to **BEER/WINE TASTING EVENT/ Senior Center** – Held until Mr. Merkel is in attendance. August 19th 12:20-2:30pm. Limited to 50 people, and a purchase of 7 tickets for 1oz pours over a 2-hour period. Alcohol vendors taking out insurance policies for the event. Option of adding a one-day policy to the Town's insurance policy for extra liability. KH will look into this. Coffee/Tea/Water and food available at event. Workers not allowed to partake in event. Mr. Sickenberger had misgivings holding this type of event.

(cabinets/Town Clerk office), Clickers ($6k, ARPA funds? (share w/N. Brookfield, FY25)). Future funds needed: Jaws of life, Highway funds for Mac Truck overhauls.

John Madden Re: Stabilization – Creating this for specific Capital funds. Looking to see if this is a good idea and if the Select Board agrees to put it on the Warrant. *Ron San Angelo* adds that he recommends to the BOS that they create a Capital Stabilization fund. He's also looking to see what amt. of money John Madden would recommend that the Town roll over. Questions re: removing funds from a Stabilization Fund once they're in there. It would have to go to a Town Meeting to release them (2/3 majority). Current State legislature may change the transfer out from a super majority to a majority. *Camie Lamica/Advisory Committee* adds that the Town should not roll over a large amount of funds as the Town residents can see it not being used for anything. You can appropriate the money at a Town Meeting, so it's available to be used. No Article on the warrant re: General Stabilization – she feels is a problem. Camie also states that we should have had the Town Meeting before Voting, so the residents would understand 2 ½ Override.

Roland Sickenberger feels that if there is enough for in the General Stabilization Fund, we should be adding to the Capitalization Fund. *John Madden* feels that the Capital Stabilization Fund is the way to go. If you stop putting money away in the General Stabilization fund, then it's hard to start again.

Discussions: re: What is the amount time allowed to amended the STM Warrant for the STM. (14 days prior to Town Meeting).

Future borrowing *5-year Capital Plan – Water Treatment Plant (600K), new DPW truck, etc. Meet w/ Jillian re: a 5/10 year strategy with borrowing. Potential school needs will require funding.

Motion to adjourn the Joint meeting of Advisory and CPC by Mr. von Bleicken. Second by Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

Motion to adjourn the CPC Meeting with Advisory Committee (David Brown)

7:30pm Motion to Open up the BOS Meeting in Open Session by Mr. von Bleicken. Second by Mr. Sickenberger - unanimous.

<u>John Madden leaves the meeting as well.</u>

Put together 10, 11 and 12 – recommended by Mr. Merkel.

EVENT ACTION PLAN FOR 2024 ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL, scheduled for May 18th,2024 on the Town Common. ***Motion to approve the Event Action Plan for the 2024 Asparagus Festival, for May 18th, 2024 on the Town Common by Mr. von Bleicken, Second by Mr. Merkel – unanimous.***

AGRONOMY FARM VINEYARD, ONE DAY FARMER SERIES POURING PERMIT at Asparagus Festival, scheduled for May 18th, 2024 on the Town Common from, 10am – 3pm. Limiting to 1oz. pours.

Motion to recommend FY 25 Capital Improvement Expenditures with the exception of clickers as recommended by the Capital Improvement Committee by Mr. von Bleicken. Second by Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN FOR FREE CASH UTILIZATION. $66,815 could go into Capitalization. – Acknowledged by the Board of Selectmen.

DISCUSSION: Ron San Angelo discussed possible IMA between towns for borrowing an ambulance with Fire Chief/Rutland Seth Knipe. Mr. Merkel mentioned an option of housing Ambulance, which would reduce the funds.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION APPROVAL OF A 48-ACRE PARCEL OF LAND TO BE TURNED OVER TO THE TOWN FOR THE RT. 9 RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT.
Motion to agree for the Town to turn over the 48-acre parcel of land for the Rt. 9 reconstruction project by Mr. von Bleicken. Second by Mr. Merkel - unanimous.
DISCUSSION - Properties along Rt. 9, which are in Conservation. The Conservation Commission will give it to the Town to be used by the Rt. 9 project, in return for land from the Town to replace it into Conservation.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO BE THE CONTRACT AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY to sign contracts on behalf of West Brookfield from the Mass Cultural Council.

Motion to approve Ron San Angelo to sign on contracts on behalf of the West Brookfield from the Mass Cultural Council by Mr. von Bleicken. Second by Mr. Merkel - unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS – Appointments to Advisory Committee/Capital Planning Committee

Motion to add to the Agenda appointing Pamela Gemme to the Board of Trustees for a 3-year term, April 30, 2024 – June 30, 2027 by Mr. von Bleicken. Second Mr. Merkel - unanimous.

Motion to appoint Pamela Gemme to the Board of Trustees for a 3-year term, April 30, 2024 – June 30, 2027 by Mr. von Bleicken. Second Mr. Merkel - unanimous.

Motion to appoint Dan Moberg to the Advisory Committee for a 1-year term, April 30, 2024 – June 30, 2025 by Mr. von Bleicken. Second Mr. Merkel - unanimous.

Motion to appoint Ronald Garceau to the Advisory Committee for a 2-year term, April 30, 2024 – June 30, 2026 by Mr. von Bleicken. Second Mr. Merkel - unanimous.

Motion to appoint Michael Audette to the Advisory Committee for a 2-year term, April 30, 2024 – June 30, 2026 by Mr. von Bleicken. Second Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

Motion to appoint Rebekah Cornell to the Capital Planning Committee for a 3-year term, April 30, 2024 – June 30, 2027 by Mr. von Bleicken. Second Mr. Merkel – unanimous.