TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN /- TUESDAY, May 14, 2024 – 6:00 PM
West Brookfield Town Hall, Conference Room

PRESENT: Mr. Sickenberger, chair; Mr. von Bleicken, vice chair; Mr. Merkel, clerk; Ron San Angelo, Town Administrator; Mr. Ed Kurr and Mr. Denny King re: Pickleball; Mike Drolet, Recreation; Chief Lapierre, Fire; Chief Hagglund, Police.

6:02PM - CALL MEETING TO ORDER IN OPEN SESSION

MINUTES of May 7, 2024, for approval.
Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of May 7, 2024, by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Merkel – Yes by Mr. Sickenberger and Mr. Merkel. Mr. von Bleicken is unable to vote as he was not at 5/7 meeting.

DOCK AT BOAT RAMP/LAKE WICKABOAG: Fire Chief Lapierre.
Fire needs a boat ramp for emergency use. Will use gates/chains and/or padlock on it, so additional boats are not docked there. Currently, you need to get a gurney in the water to retrieve a patient from a boat. Mr. Sickenberger asked if they could get access through the Boat Club. Chief Lapierre added that they would still have to go through the Boat Club to get to the patients. The Fire Dept. would expect to raise funds by donation for the dock. FYI: The boat launch is a state launch. Town property is to the right. Mr. Merkel stated that if they were to raise funds and this would be no cost to the town, he was ok with it. Mr. von Bleicken agreed. Chief Lapierre will speak with Conservation first before moving forward and the dock constructed.
Motion to allow the dock to be constructed by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Merkel. Mr. Sickenberger voted no, has reservations.

PICKLEBALL IN THE GREAT HALL: Ed Kurr, Denny King. Mr. Kurr asked if the Town would allow the Great Hall to be used for Pickleball (days/evenings). Court size is 22' x 40', could fit 2 in Great Hall. Tennis nets would cost $250 each, non-adhesive tape to be used. No damage anticipated in hall, wiffle ball used to play. Mr. Kurr added that WB's Great Hall is similar to the town of Ware's hall and would treat WB's hall in a similar nature. For use during winter months November – April. There would be a yearly fee for Pickleball group to use the Hall. There would be no fee for residents to use the courts, fee to non-residents. Money raised from non-residents using it would go either to General Fund or Recreation. Mr. Kurr and Mr. King will work with Recreation to come up with a concrete plan for the Pickleball courts in Great Hall and come back to BOS. Would need space to store nets/materials. There are current plans to play outdoors during summer months at the Elementary School (Steve Duff looking for grants to cover cost to resurface the tennis courts, Jim Daley/Highway to paint lines w/ paint purchased by Mr. Duff.

ONE SIDE OF CENTRAL STREET 1-HR PARKING/NO PARKING: Making one side of Central Street to High Street a no parking area and to consider putting up more one-hour parking signs in the areas that are heavily trafficked on Central Street during the day.

Mr. Merkel suggested putting up 1-hr. parking signs from Bell's Insurance up to Dipodee Doo, then no parking on 1 side of the street towards Highway Dept. on Central Street. Chief Hagglund added that it would be hard for their team to monitor 1-hour parking. Suggestion by Mr. Drolet/Recreation to put up no commercial

vehicle signs to deter commercial vehicles which currently are parking there. Mr. Drolet to speak with Mr. Piechota (owner of local towing company) to ask that he park campers currently parked on Central St. in an old farmstand's lot. Chief Hagglund to put out data collector on Central Street to see traffic patterns on Rd. and come up with plan to recommend to the Select Board.

Motion to deflect this topic/discussion to the 1st meeting after town meeting (June 14th) to allow Chief Hagglund time by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

YEAR END APPOINTMENTS:

Motion to accept appointments as written in the schedule by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

CLASS I, II, III POLICIES AND FEES: A new company in town, Bettencourts Racing, is seeking a Class III license. Currently the Town does not have a structed policies for Class I, II, III licenses. Beth Gobeille to establish documents for these licenses and present this to Select Board for approval at next BOS meeting on May 28th. There are questions for Bettencourts Racing re: their setup/the specific type of work which will be conduc ted on site at their address on Central Street (does the premises have sprinklers, heat detection, proper disposal of liquids/solvents, etc.). This address must meet the zoning requirements for the type of business there. Mr. Bettencourt needs to contact the Building Inspector/Zoning Officer/Fire Chief re: what he will be doing on the premises ASAP. Beth Gobeille to contact Mr. Bettencourt to convey this.

TOWN MEETING WARRANT

STM: Articles 1 – 6.

Motion to accept Articles in the STM as presented by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

ATM:

Articles 1, 2

No Vote needed.

Article 3

Motion to accept as written for Annual Town Meeting by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

Articles 4, 5

HOLD for BOS meeting May 28th.

Article 6

Motion to accept as written for Town Meeting by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

Article 7

Motion to accept as written for Town Meeting by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Merkel. Mr. von Bleicken and Mr. Sickenberger yes, Mr. Merkel not in favor.

Article 8 – 19

Motion to accept as written for Town Meeting by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

Article 20

Don't do anything – citizen's petition.

RESTRUCTURING OF THE SELECT BOARD

Motion that we keep the Board as it is with Roland Sickenberger as Chair, Eric von Bleicken as Vice-Chair and Brad Merkel as Clerk by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

TREASURE WARRANTS:
Motion to approve and sign the Treasury Warrants as presented by Mr. Sickenberger. Seconded by Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS:
NEW DOCK AT LAKE WICKABOAG – Mr. San Angelo stated that this was brought up a while ago, but believed that Capital Improvement Committee did not recommend it. He stated he would speak with David Brown/Capital Improvement Committee re: this ramp at Lake Wickaboag. Mike Drolet/Recreation added that the cost for a new dock would be $12,000. It's size would be 40' out into lake, 20' into beach area. He felt that the beach really needs a new one and it would be a similar dock to ones other towns have. Added concern from others included info re: current floating dock below:

FLOATING DOCK AT LAKE WICKABOAG – Mr. Drolet stated that the floating dock at Lake Wickaboag is unsafe and needs to be removed. Mr. von Bleicken added that that the beach is unsupervised due to no lifeguards. The beach was unable to recruit any last year. The floating dock is Town property. Vote at the next BOS meeting to make it surplus property, so it may be removed.

RECOGNIZING BENNY AT TOWN MEETING – Chief Lapierre recommended recognizing Robert Benson "Benny"/Water Commissioner Chairman at the upcoming Town Meeting. He's 94 and has been involved with the Town for most of his life. Mr. San Angelo stated that we also need his resignation as Chair from Water Enterprises for the next BOS meeting from Kathy Landry. Beth Gobeille to speak with Ms. Landry.

COMMENTS & CONCERNS – Beth Gobeille stated that Pole Hearings cost a lot to the Town. With additional Pole Hearings indicated by National Grid this summer she would ask that Town to invoice National Grid back for the advertising cost of these hearings. This idea was met with a favorable response from Select Board. Beth Gobeille to get specifics back to the Select Board for the next BOS Meeting.

ADJOURN MEETING: 8:07PM.
Motion to adjourn meeting by Mr. Sickenberger. Seconded by Mr. von Bleicken.

Authorized Party for the BOS

Town Clerk

June 4, 2024 12:00pm

Date Time