TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TUESDAY, October 1st, 2024 – 6:00 PM

West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street, 1st Floor Conference Room.

Updated MINUTES

RECEIVED
OCT 30 2024
BY:

PRESENT: Mr. Sickenberger, Chair; Mr. von Bleicken, Vice Chair; Mr. San Angelo, TA; Ms. Gobeille, Exec. Asst. to TA/BOS; Mark O'Dowd, Highway; Duane Cassavant, Highway; Chief Hagglund, Chief Police Dept.; Richard Lapierre, Chief Fire Dept.; Ken Collette, Fire Dept.; Charles Reardon, Fire Dept.; Matt Letendre, Police; Kendall Perrault, Police; Cassidy Culver; Kendall Perrault; Ryan Shepard, CAC; Paul Lapenas, CAC; Lori Loughlin, Advisory.

GUEST: Mr. Frank Gentile, AFSCME Staff Representative; Camie Lamica, Resident.

ABSENT: Mr. Merkel, Clerk.

6:03PM - CALL MEETING TO ORDER IN OPEN SESSION

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10th AND 17th BOS MEETINGS FOR APPROVAL.
Minutes of 17th Held until next meeting.
Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of September 10th, 2024 by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes.

DISCUSSION-SENIOR CENTER BEER/WINE TASTING EVENT, DECEMBER 9th, 2024 SENIOR CENTER, 73 CENTRAL STREET, 12:30pm – 2:30pm.
Motion to approve Wine/Beer Tasting event at the Senior Center on December 9th, 2024 from 12-3pm by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION; APPOINTMENT OF 2 NEW POLICE OFFICERS.
Motion to appoint Officer Tyler St. Cyr as a Full Time Officer/Constable with the Town of West Brookfield as of October 16, 2024. APPOINTMENT HELD PER CHIEF HAGGLUND.

Motion to appoint Officer Kendall Perrault as a Full Time Officer/Constable with the Town of West Brookfield as of October 15, 2024 contingent on passing the medical exams by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes.
Mr. San Angelo explained that Mr. Perrault is an excellent candidate and was their top choice with 13 years Detective experience, Nicotine intervention. He has also been a Field Training officer and knows the systems. Chief Hagglund also mentioned that he would like hire 1 more officer, PT certified.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION – SWEARING IN AN APPOINTMENT OF WEST BROOKFIELD'S COMFORT DOG, FOSTER.

Motion to appoint Foster as the Town of West Brookfield's Comfort Dog as of October 1st, 2024 by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: CABLE ACTION COMMITTEE DISCUSSION re: STATE CERT. OF FUNDS, ARTICLE FOR STM.

Paul Lapenas/CAC discussed that the Town Hall has internet issues and are looking for opportunities to sort things out. In addition, there are monies in a PEG account, (from Spectrum TV subscribers in the Town). The contract with Spectrum expired Oct. 2023, but it still exists in perpetuity until negotiated. The Town has had 7 years without TV live broadcasting of Public Meetings, etc. They would like $7500 ($5000 to speak with legal counsel to negotiate the Spectrum contract and $2500 make the necessary changes to have consistent internet connections in the CAC room. Re: the legal work to be done to renegotiate the contract, there are 3 attorneys in the state, who can do this work. Paul also added that in the initial Spectrum contract you get capital $ to help build out the cable studio, then $20K or so after that/year, which is subscriber fees. Enterprise money must be certified every year as well. Once certified it will take a few months to use these funds. The motions for using $7500 in ARPA funds will be moved to the 10/15 meeting.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: EARLY VOTING COMPLIANCE ISSUES.

Heather Gough, Town Clerk explains what needs to take place re: ADA compliance with early voting at Town Hall. Cones may be put in place, but we are looking to create a handicap parking space on the side of Town Hall with handicap accessibility being by the side door and using the elevator to reach the main floor. Also, the brickwork by the walkway has dipped. It needs to have an ½" lip and is currently 2" or so. The bricks will be taken out, adding extra stone dust, tamped back down and re-right the bricks. Ron San Angelo asked Ms. Gobeille to reach out to Mr. Arello, who did work for the town previously.

Mr. Sickenberger asked H. Gough re: her carpet tiles for the Town Clerk's office. She will be looking to use another vendor as the first one is not reachable.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: CONTRACT W/ ARCHITECTURAL INSIGHTS.

Ron San Angelo explains that we would like to put the construction piece of the work to be done (approx. $60K) out to bid. Plan included $1500 for the chimney, $6000 for AI to be "Clerk of the Works" as part of the contract. The contract with AI is not ready, but hopes it will be by the next meeting.

Mr. Lapierre thought that the Building Inspector/of Asst. BI could inspect this building. Mr. von Bleicken thought that the Clerk of Works would cost more than $6K. Ms. Lamica added that she has always had the architect who will serve as the Clerk of the Works. That person will be saying that the work being done is what they had expected. Mr. San Angelo added that we do not have a lot of time. We need to make sure that the prevailing wage schedule from the State would be applicable for this. A template of the work to be done will need to be put out with Scope of Services added to it. A bid request will need to go out. Mr. San Angelo added additionally that we will have to allocate the rest of the money from ARPA funds to be put in a separate account and to be put aside for repairs to Town Hall. Mr. San Angelo will talk to Bob Halves to get the contract going.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Vote Expected: TA Interview Committee appointments.

Mr. San Angelo needs to talk to Mary Aicardi to work with the interview committee to set up the meetings.

Motion to appoint Diane Vayda to the Town Administrator Interview Committee by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes.

Motion to appoint David Brown to the Town Administrator Interview Committee by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes.

Motion to appoint Nathan Hagglund to the Town Administrator Interview Committee by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes.

Motion to appoint Gary Simeone to the Town Administrator Interview Committee by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: STM AND ARTICLES.

$45K moved from grant-match account, leaving $20K in Stabilization Acct. 5% interest for new truck loan. Mr. Lapierre has a quote for a truck ($58K cheaper), which is good until Nov. 30th. Will need a letter of intent by then. Loan will be 500K-ish. He will also sell/auction the trucks they have left (at DPW, etc.).

Motion to set the date for Special Town Meeting for November 19th by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes.

Motion to add Article #1, Supplemental Appropriations on the Special Town Meeting Warrant To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds sums of money to supplement appropriations previously voted under Article 4 at the Annual Town Meeting of June 4, 2024, for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2024, for various Town Departments, or take any action in relation thereto by ***by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes.***

Motion to add Article #2, Transfer to Fire Truck Stabilization Account on the Special Town Meeting Warrant To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of $45,750 to the Fire Truck Stabilization Account, such amount having been transferred from the Fire Truck Stabilization Account for the 5% grant match towards a new Pumper/Tanker Truck, contingent upon receiving the FY 2022 Assistance to Firefighters Grant, or take any action in relation thereto ***by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger - 2 yes.***

Motion to add Article #3, Transfer from Fire Truck Stabilization Account on the Special Town Meeting Warrant To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of money from the Fire Truck Stabilization Account, such amount to assist in providing funding for the purchase of Fire Engine #1 pump one replacement, or take any action in relation thereto ***by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes.***

Motion to add Article #4 Purchase of a Fire Truck to the Special Town Warrant To see if the Town will raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, a sum of money for the purchase of Fire Engine #1 pump one replacement , authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to borrow such sum of money pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Sections 7 and 8 or any other enabling authority and issue bonds and notes therefor; provided further that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any premium applied to the payment of costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 20, thereby reducing by a like amount the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs, provided, however, that this debt authorization be contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion question General Laws Chapter 59, § 21C(k) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept any gifts or grants for such project; or take any action in relation thereto ***by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes.***

Mr. Sickenberger indicated that the Select Board will have Mr. Merkel make the recommendations at the next BOS meeting.

Motion to add the Treasury Warrants to the Agenda by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger - 2 yes.

Motion to approve and sign the Treasury Warrants as presented by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes.

Moved #11, 12, 13, 14 (on agenda) up, leaving Executive Session to the end of the meeting.

TA BUSINESS/COMMENTS -
Mr. San Angelo sent out all CIC information to all department heads with letters of explanations and Forms A, B and C. Budgets will go out to everyone soon. B. Gobeille will build the new budget books, keeping the current inserts in there. He indicates that the process should be easier this year. He will also be available for any Teams meetings to go over anything.
We also need to make sure that the ARPA funds are allocated by December 31st.

OTHER BUSINESS
We need the ballot passed as well in order to get the new Fire Truck passed. RSA to talk to Heather re: the structure of the STM/Ballot as well.

Next BOS Regular Meeting Date: October 15th, 2024 – 6PM.

7:45pm. Motion to close Open Session and move to Executive Session by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes

Motion to go into Executive Session **to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.** ***The Select Board may return to regular session to discuss and vote on the topics involving numbers 1 below.***

1. AFSCME Grievance.

Motion to open the Open Session by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes.

Motion to reject the AFSCME grievance brought forth by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes.

8:07pm: Motion to vote to adjourn the meeting by Mr. von Bleicken. Seconded by Mr. Sickenberger – 2 yes.

Respectfully submitted,

10/22/24 2:35pm

Authorized Party for the BOS Date/Time

Clerk, Select Board Date/Time