TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TUESDAY, November 12th, 2024 – 6:00 PM

West Brookfield Town Hall, 2 East Main Street, Conf. Room (1st floor).

MINUTES

PRESENT: Roland Sickenberger, Chair; Eric von Bleicken, Vice Chair; Brad Merkel, Clerk; Beth Gobeille, Exec. Asst. to TA/BOS; Chief Nathan Hagglund;
GUESTS: Cami Lamica, resident; Cassidy Culver, Police Officer (outside of room); Ms. Culver's friend (outside of room); Jesse Merriam, resident.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER IN OPEN SESSION

6:02: Motion to open the meeting

MINUTES OF October 29th BOS MEETING FOR APPROVAL.
Motion to approve and sign the Minutes of October 29th, 2024 made by Mr. von Bleicken. Second by Mr. Merkel – unanimous

TATA & HOWARD AGREEMENT FOR GROUND WATER TESTING/ANNUAL –
Motion to approve the Agreement with Tata & Howard for Annual Ground Water Testing made by Mr. von Bleicken. Second by Mr. Merkel – unanimous

ARCHITECTURAL INSIGHTS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR SIGNATURE –
Motion to approve the Professional Services Agreement with Architectural Insights for the Town Hall Exterior Repairs and Door Replacements Project made by Mr. von Bleicken. Second by Mr. Merkel – unanimous

WEST BROOKFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY LINDA ARTRUC APPOINT AS TENANT BOARD MEMBER –
Motion to appoint Linda Artruc as a Tenant Board Member for the West Brookfield Housing Authority for a 4-year term made by Mr. von Bleicken. Second by Mr. Merkel – unanimous
Mr. von Bleicken explained that she is a current tenant.

CHIEF HAGGLUND AS INTERIM TA, WHILE A TA IS BEING HIRED –
Motion to have Police Chief Nathan Hagglund serve as Interim Town Administrator and to sign all Contracts that have been approved by the Board of Selectmen made by Mr. von Bleicken. Second by Mr. Merkel - unanimous
Mr. Sickenberger explained that we need someone in place. Nathan Hagglund is the person to do this and hopefully for only six weeks or 2 months. Mr. Merkel questioned what he would be signing. Mr. Sickenberger added that they would be contracts, which the Select Board have already approved.

Motion to provide the Interim Town Administrator Chief Hagglund a stipend/month. The stipend should come out of the Town Administrator's salary line made by Mr. von Bleicken. Second by Mr. Merkel – unanimous

MOVING FIRE DEPT. COVID STORAGE UNITS – Chief Lapierre was not able to make it (at a fire). Hold to a future meeting.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR WICKABOAG LAKE; CENTRAL MASS. BASSERS' EVENT 5/17/2025
Motion to approve the Special Use Permit for Central Mass Massers' event at Wickaboag Lake on 5/17/2025 made by Mr. von Bleicken. Second by Mr. Merkel - unanimous

PURESKY DECOMMISSIONING –
Motion to authorize the Town to enter in to the Decommissioning Agreement with ASD Cronin MA Solar, LLC as provided in the meeting materials and to authorize the Board Chair to executive said agreement made by Mr. von Bleicken. Second by Mr. Merkel – unanimous

DISCUSSION/VOTE EXPECTED: VOTE TO ALLOCATE $190,000 OF ARPA MONEY TO BE UTILIZED FOR REPAIRS AND PAINTING FOR PHASE I AND II FOR TOWN HALL EXTERIOR WORK.
Motion to allocate $190,000 of ARPA funds to be utilized for Repairs and Painting for Phase I and II for Town Hall made by Mr. von Bleicken. Second by Mr. Merkel – unanimous

DISCUSSION/VOTE EXPECTED: VOTE TO ALLOCATE $20,000 OF ARPA MONEY TO BE UTILIZED FOR LEGAL FEES AND ANY OTHER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE RT. 9 PROJECT.
Motion to allocate $20,000 of ARPA funds to be utilized for Legal fees and any other costs associated with the Rt. 9 Project made by Mr. von Bleicken. Second by Mr. Merkel - unanimous

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE VOTE: RE-DESIGNING THE JOHN ZABEK MEMORIAL TREES OUTSIDE THE TOWN HALL.
Chief Hagglund proposed he'd like to redesign the John Zabek Memorial, which is outside of Town Hall on West Main Street (front of Town Hall) as the birds nest in the trees, dropping bird feces on the Police cars, which often need to park there. The trees also impede snow removal (per Jim Daley, Highway Superintendent). Chief Hagglund continued that he would like to look into different options in honoring Mr. Zabek, West Brookfield's first Police Officer, perhaps a plaque and plantings, etc., in front of the steps in the front of Town Hall, but feels that the trees definitely to be either trimmed or taken down outside of Town Hall or take them down completely. Mr. Sickenberger suggested that we approach National Grid to trim the trees. There was also a suggestion to contact Mr. Bill Jankins, local historian about the original planting of the trees and to perhaps get more information about Mr. Zabek.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: OPIOID ABATEMENT FUNDING GRANT MATCHING PROGRAM-
Ms. Gobeille explained that this is a Grant opportunity through RIZE to match current funds available from the Opioid Settle funds which we have left to use. Chief Hagglund explained that he would like to use the funds (if we get the matching program) to develop a program with a physician, who is able to write scripts for the Police Dept. to equip the vehicles with Opvee, an overdose reversal drug, similar to Narcan, but stronger. You only need 1 dose of Opvee. Ms. Gobeille and Chief Hagglund to look into this more. Mr. Merkel asked about disposal of pills at the Town Hall. Chief Hagglund explained that they already have a pill dispenser box for residents to dispose of unused/expired medication safely. Ms. Gobeille added that although the Town Hall

does not have a Sharps container for residents to dispose of used needles safely, but she has taken boxes from residents and gave to BOH, who will receive Sharps containers and will dispose of them in the proper manner. Ms. Gobeille also showed the Select Board a flyer, which was from Mill Town, who she met with Chief Hagglund to discuss placing boxes in Town Hall in a safe place for Narcan needs for residents. She added that Mill Town had notified us of the RIZE matching grant, which was available to those municipalities who have received Opioid Settlement Funds. Re: the Narcan dispenser units, these units for placing in Town Hall are to be donated to the Town and restocked when needed by Mill Town. Mr. von Bleicken asked if we can research this to see if we need this (as a Town). Chief Hagglund mentioned that we do participate in programs to help residents as a prevention, "Handle With Care" and this is just another preventative method for helping residents who struggle with opioid addiction. He added further that if this is a controversial item for the Town Hall, the BOS should have to decide on this. BOH was going to meet with Mill Town in the coming weeks. Ms. Gobeille and Chief Hagglund will ask them what they think of the program and if it's something they would recommend for West Brookfield.

RESTRUCTURING THE SELECT BOARD –

Motion to appoint Eric von Bleicken as the new Chair of the Select Board made by Mr. Merkel. Second by Mr. Sickenberger – unanimous

Motion to appoint Roland Sickenberger as the Vice Chair of the Select Board by Mr. von Bleicken. Second by Mr. Merkel – unanimous

TREASURY WARRANTS

Motion to approve and sign the Treasury Warrants as presented made by Mr. Sickenberger. Second by Mr. Merkel – unanimous

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS –

A reminder that the STM is scheduled at November 19th at 7pm.

Next BOS Regular Meeting Date: November 26th, 2024 – 6PM.

6:48pm – *Motion to adjourn meeting made by Mr. Sickenberger. Second by Mr. Merkel – unanimous.*

11/20/24 — 11/26/24 @ 8:55pm

Authorized Party for the BOS Date/Time — Clerk Date/Time