TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, April 29th, 2025 – 6:00 PM

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

MINUTES

PRESENT: Eric von Bleicken, Chair; Roland Sickenberger, Vice Chair; Brad Merkel, Clerk; Theresa Cofske, Town Administrator; Beth Gobeille, Exec. Asst. to TA/BOS; Cami Lamica, Advisory; Bill Mansfield, Assessors; Chief Hagglund, Police; Chief Lapierre, Fire; Ali Smichinski, Animal Inspector; Craig Charron, Patrolman.

GUEST: Mr. Garwood/Ragged Hill Cider; Dan Richard, investigator; Chris Petrini, Petrini Law.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER IN OPEN SESSION

6:02pm: Motion to open the meeting

MINUTES FOR April 15 BOS MEETINGS (Open and Executive Sessions) for approval.
Motion to approve April 15 BOS meetings (Open and Executive Sessions) made by Mr. Sickenberger. Second by Mr. Merkel, Mr. Sickenberger abstains. - 2 yes.

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION FROM AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT TOWARD FLAGS/POLES/BRACKETS for Town.
Ms. Gobeille explained that the American Legion offered to pay the balance of an invoice for the purchase of flags/poles/brackets for the Town as the Veterans line we were using did not have enough funds in it to cover the full amount.
Motion to accept the donation from the American Legion Auxiliary Unit toward the purchase of the Flags/Poles/Brackets for the Town made by Mr. Sickenberger. Second by Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

ASPARAGUS FESTIVAL ONE DAY PERMITS – Votes expected: Ragged Hill Cider Company, Agronomy Farm Vineyard, Hardwick Vineyard and Winery LLC, Timberyard Brewing Company.
Motion to approve the Farmers Series Pouring Permits for Agronomy Farm Vineyard, Ragged Hill Cider Company, Hardwick Vineyard and Winery LLC and Timberyard Brewing Company for the Asparagus Festival on May 17, 2025 on Town Common made by Mr. Sickenberger. Second by Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

APPROVE WARRANTS FOR THE June 3, 2025 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING FOR POSTING –

Ms. Cofske went through all the Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrants with the Select Board and stated that she will be developing an Administrative Warrant, which will give clarity and explanations of the Articles and will be available at the Town Meeting.

Motion to approve the Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meeting Warrants as presented made by Mr. Sickenberger. So moved, Mr. Merkel. Vote to approve – Mr. Sickenberger, aye; Mr. Merkel, aye; Mr. von Bleicken, aye.

ASSISTANT ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER APPOINTMENT – VOTE EXPECTED.

Motion to approve the appointment of Alixandra Smichinski as Assistant Animal Control Officer for the Town from July 1st, 2025 made by Mr. Sickenberger. Second by Mr. Merkel – unanimous.

The Select Board will enter into Executive Session pursuant to the following G.L.s c.30A, §21(a)(1) and (2) listed below and will reconvene in open session following Executive Session.

6:35pm: Meeting in Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(2) to Discuss Preparations for and Status of Collective Bargaining with New England Police Benevolent Association Local 83A (Patrol) and Local 83B (Sergeants), and to Obtain Legal Advice from Town Counsel Pursuant to Suffolk Construction Co., Inc. v. DCAM, 449 Mass. 444 (2007)

6:30pm: Meeting in Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(2) to Discuss Preparations for Collective Bargaining with West Brookfield Firefighters AFSCME Council 93 (Two Fire Grievances) and to Obtain Legal Advice from Town Counsel Pursuant to Suffolk Construction Co., Inc. v. DCAM, 449 Mass. 444 (2007)

7:00pm: Meeting in Executive Session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(1) to Discuss Potential Discipline (Fire Chief)

Motion to close the Open Session and to move to the Executive Session made by Mr. Sickenberger. Second by Mr. Merkel. Roll call vote: Mr. Sickenberger, aye; Mr. Merkel, aye; Mr. von Bleicken, aye.

Return to Open Session.

Motion to vote to ratify the MOU between the Town and the Police Patrolman Union, NEPBA Local 83A for FY2026-2028. All in favor, Mr. Sickenberger, aye; Mr. von Bleicken, aye; Mr. Merkel, aye.

TREASURY WARRANTS.

Motion to approve the Treasury Warrants as presented made by Mr. Merkel. Second by Mr. von Bleicken – 2 yes.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Sickenberger thanked Mr. von Bleicken for his time on the Board of Selectmen.

NEXT BOS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 13th at 6PM.

8:52pm. ***Motion to adjourn made by made by Mr. Merkel. Second by Mr. von Bleicken – 2 yes.***

Authorized Party for the BOS Date

BOS Clerk Date