TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

THURSDAY, March 26, 2026 – 6:00 PM

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

MINUTES

CALL MEETING TO ORDER IN OPEN SESSION

STAFF PRESENT: Catherine Lamica, Vice Chair; Brad Merkel, Clerk (virtual); Beth Gobeille, Exec. Asst. to TA/BOS; Melinda Barnes, Advisory Secretary.

Many residents and Quaboag Regional School District employees attended this meeting.

6:02PM: MOTION TO OPEN THE BOS MEETING

There was a discussion regarding the Proposition 2 ½ Override ballot question, approved by the Board of Selectmen at their March 17th, 2026 meeting as residents supporting West Brookfield Elementary School had requested the amount of money in the ballot question to be revisited in hopes of raising additional funds from the Town's residents for the school.

The Board of Selectmen reiterated that the Quaboag Regional School District School Committee decides whether the West Brookfield Elementary School closes, not the Board of Selectmen.

Many Quaboag Regional School District staff, Quaboag Regional School Committee members and residents of the Town voiced their concerns for the Town's Override for 2026 and what it would mean specifically for them. Residents were encouraged to attend the Public Information sessions, which will be held on the following dates:

Wednesday, April 1st at the West Brookfield Elementary School at 6:30pm

Monday, April 13th at the West Brookfield Senior Center at 6:30pm

Monday, April 27th at the West Brookfield Elementary School at 6:30pm

It was decided that the original Ballot question approved at the March 17th, 2026 would be rescinded and the new motion with 2 ballot questions would be voted on.

Motion: ***I move to rescind the March 17th, 2026 Board of Selectmen's vote approving the Proposition 2 ½ Override Ballot Question made by Mr. Merkel. Second by Ms. Lamica. Vote: Unanimous (2-0). All in favor.***

Motion: ***I move to approve the following Proposition 2 ½ Override Ballot Questions as follows to be voted at the May 5, 2026 Local Election:***

1A. Shall the Town of West Brookfield be allowed to assess an additional $1,600,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of operating the Municipal Government and Quaboag Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026?

_____***Yes*** _____***No***

1B. Shall the Town of West Brookfield be allowed to assess an additional $1,100,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of operating the Municipal Government and Quaboag Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026?

_____***Yes*** _____***No***

Questions 1A and 1B are separate questions. You may vote for or against each question independently. Each question requires a majority vote of those voting on that question to pass. If more than one question passes, the question with the highest dollar amount will prevail.

made by Mr. Merkel. Second by Ms. Lamica. Vote: Unanimous (2-0). All in favor.

Mr. Kapacko, Warren Finance Committee added that they would not be able to support the $1,600,000 override.

6:54pm: Motion: I move to adjourn made by Mr. Merkel. Second by Ms. Lamica. Vote: Unanimous (2-0). All in favor.

Authorized Party for the BOS 4/14/2026 Date

BOS Clerk 4/14/26 Date

Motion: ***I move to approve the following Proposition 2 ½ Override Ballot Questions as follows to be voted at the May 5, 2026 Local Election:***

1A. Shall the Town of West Brookfield be allowed to assess an additional $1,600,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of operating the Municipal Government and Quaboag Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026?

_____***Yes*** _____***No***

1B. Shall the Town of West Brookfield be allowed to assess an additional $1,100,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of operating the Municipal Government and Quaboag Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026?

_____***Yes*** _____***No***

Questions 1A and 1B are separate questions. You may vote for or against each question independently. Each question requires a majority vote of those voting on that question to pass. If more than one question passes, the question with the highest dollar amount will prevail.

made by Mr. Merkel. Second by Ms. Lamica. Vote: Unanimous (2-0). All in favor.

Mr. Kapacko, Warren Finance Committee added that if the $1,600,000 override should pass Warren would not be able to pay their share of the portion.

6:54pm: Motion: I move to adjourn made by Mr. Merkel. Second by Ms. Lamica. Vote: Unanimous (2-0). All in favor.

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Authorized Party for the BOS Date BOS Clerk Date