

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MINUTES
JULY 2, 2012 – 7:30 P.M.
BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER**

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman William R. Davidson called the meeting to order at 7:41 p.m.

PRESENT: William R. Davidson, First Selectman; Howard Lasser, Selectman; George Walker, Selectman; Jay Wahlberg, Controller; Bill Leverage, Controller; members of the public and press; Virginia Giovanniello, Recording Secretary.

MONTHLY AGENDA ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Davidson announced the following:

- Police Contract will go to arbitration due to stalled negotiations and hopefully will get resolved satisfactorily.
- The July edition of "Brookfield Matters" was just published and enables those interested in town happenings to learn about various events. Residents may also sign up (www.brookfieldct.gov) for other newsletters from the Library, Parks & Recreation, Senior Center and Brookfield Schools.
- Susan Murphy is heading up a committee organizing events for the Town of Brookfield's 225th Anniversary. Contact the First Selectman's office for information.

CORRESPONDENCE: A letter was received from John Voris regarding water assessments to a number of Silvermine Road homeowners. The Selectmen hope to revisit this issue in the next six months or so.

PARKING APPEAL: Mr. Thomas Mascola was present to explain the reason for his parking appeal, stating there were only yellow stripes on the pavement next to the Costco tire store and no sign indicating that you could not park there. At conclusion of discussion, the Selectmen deferred their decision in order to take a look themselves at the area in question. Mr. Mascola will receive a letter indicating whether the Selectmen agreed with him or the Police Department.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL RESULTS: Mr. Davidson introduced William (Bill) Leverage as the newly hired Town Controller who is replacing Controller Jay Wahlberg. Mr. Wahlberg reported on the town's revenues and expenditures. At conclusion of discussion, the Selectmen did not vote on the FEMA portion of budget transfers until they receive further information from Mr. Wahlberg. **Howard Lasser made motion that the Selectmen approve the budget transfers Account Number 21209 and 21210 as presented by Controller Jay Wahlberg, seconded by George Walker. Motion carried unanimously.**

NEW ITEMS

BROOKFIELD EDUCATION FOUNDATION (BEF): Brookfield Education Foundation President Colette Sturm gave a presentation and an update on the education based fundraising organization for grants to the Brookfield public school programs for the 2011-12 school year. Mrs. Sturm also presented a short video of the Whisconier Middle School's Unified Theater Program.

TOWN ORDINANCE: Mr. Davidson noted that the Tax office is looking to establish an ordinance to retain payment from any person, firm or corporation who pays any property tax in excess of the principal of such tax if the excess payment is less than five dollars, and not issue a refund as per CT State Statute 12-129. When the tax office processes refunds that are less than five dollars, the town loses money in the time and costs associated in

processing the request. The tax collector would refund any excess payment upon written request if such request is made within one year from the date the tax was originally due. Mr. Lasser stated that the ordinance should clarify something to the effect that overpayments will be applied to future tax payments. At conclusion of discussion, **Howard Lasser made motion that the Selectmen schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, August 6, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., at the BHS Media Center, for the establishment of a Town Ordinance for waiver of excess payments less than \$5.00, seconded by George Walker. Motion carried unanimously.**

UPDATES

MEADOWBROOK MANOR/HILLSIDE CIRCLE: Mr. Davidson stated that though there are still a lot of hurdles to overcome, the DEEP has agreed to take a fresh look at the flooding problems in Meadowbrook Manor and not be prejudiced by their previous decisions. He mentioned that State Representative David Scribner and Congressman Roraback were helpful in communicating to DEP. The DEEP is looking at the variety of engineering material sent to them. Mr. Davidson also believes that the resolution of resolving this problem is headed in the right path. Mr. Walker also stated that Public Works Director Ralph Tedesco should be congratulated as well due to his communications with the State on this issue.

CHAPTER 71 WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY ORDINANCE: A Public Hearing was held prior to the Board of Selectmen meeting to hear public comment on the ordinance. The Selectmen discussed the proposed ordinance with WPCA Chairman Nelson Malwitz. Mr. Lasser stated he doesn't think this ordinance provides financial oversight of the WPCA, and is concerned that the WPCA is collecting more money than what is needed to pay the debt. Mr. Davidson suggested that the WPCA provide the Selectmen with a side letter submitting a report on an annual basis to collect such funds to pay off the bonds. Mr. Lasser wants this to be part of WPCA's reporting requirements by submitting financial reports or specifically identify income statement balance sheets and cash flow. At conclusion of lengthy discussion, **George Walker made motion that the Selectmen approve the accounting modifications made in the ordinance including editorial in nature to Chapter 71 Water Pollution Control Authority Ordinance, as discussed at the Public Hearing. Motion seconded by William Davidson, and carried by majority. Howard Lasser opposed.** (Discussion of WPCA operation continued later in the meeting).

DEL MAR DRIVE SEWER EXTENSION: The Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance have previously approved the WPCA's recommendation for a \$750,000 appropriation to pay for the costs of the Del Mar Drive sewer extension. The project will include the installation of approximately 1,500 linear feet of gravity main sewer line and approximately 650 linear feet of force main. A sanitary sewer pump station and is intended to provide sewer services to industrial properties from 7 Del Mar Drive to 87 Del Mar Drive. **George Walker made motion to schedule a Special Town Meeting on Monday, August 6, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., at the BHS Media Center to approve a \$750,000 appropriation for the WPCA to extend the Del Mar Drive Sewer line, seconded by Howard Lasser. Motion carried unanimously.**

CHARTER REVISION: Mr. Davidson noted that the Selectmen agreed to the Charter amendment questions that will be prepared for the ballot. A postcard mailing will be sent to all residents with the proposed Charter changes before the referendum. Mr. Lasser suggested that the Selectmen promote and execute some kind of informational meeting in order for the community to have a general meeting and discussion on specific proposals on the ballot in November.

WIRELESS CELL TOWN AT MUNICIPAL CENTER PROPERTY: Mr. Davidson noted that a representative from Independent Towers, LLC is having a site walk on July 9th. There is a fair amount of information from two cell tower companies in the spreadsheet analysis prepared by Mr. Pete Peterson. With the reasonable amount of data accumulated, the Selectmen will discuss in the near future.

SOUTHERN FEDERAL ROAD WATER LINE PHASE II PLANS: Mr. Davidson reported that the construction of the phase II water line is beginning shortly. The water line will be placed down the middle of Federal Road due to the gas line on one side and sewer line on the other. They will do their best to keep traffic flowing and are coordinating all activities with Costco and BJ's who are busy with construction of their own. The construction is expected to last through October.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Mr. Lasser gave an update on the current discussions of the Retirement Benefits Advisory Committee.

CONSENT AGENDA

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES:

- June 4, 2012
- June 6, 2012
- June 8, 2012
- June 22, 2012

NEW HIRE REPORT: a) William Leverence, Controller, Non Union, Effective June 18, 2012.

SELECTMEN APPROVALS FOR ROUTINE CONTRACT MATTERS: a) Resolved: That William R. Davidson, First Selectman of the Town of Brookfield, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant; b) Lease Agreement at Whisconier Middle School for computer equipment in the amount of \$12,000.

BOND RELEASES:

Zoning Commission: a) 58 Riverford Road - Application #200700761, Final Bond Release of \$1,800.
Inland-Wetlands Commission: a) 43 Riverford Road, Application #200601020, Planting Bond, Release of \$800.

CONSENT AGENDA: Howard Lasser made motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by George Walker. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL MONTHLY AGENDA ITEMS

APPOINTMENTS

ARTS COMMISSION: Howard Lasser made motion to appoint Marian Miller to the Arts Commission, seconded by George Walker. Motion carried unanimously.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY: William Davidson made motion that the Selectmen appoint Christopher Scott from Alternate to Regular member on the WPCA, subject to a resignation letter from Patrick Donahue as Regular member, seconded by George Walker. Motion carried unanimously.

William Davidson made motion that the Selectmen, subject to Patrick Donahue resignation letter as Regular member, appoint him as Alternate member on the WPCA, seconded by George Walker.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY: Mr. Lasser requested that the Selectmen take a step back with fresh eyes on the functional responsibilities of the WPCA. Mr. Lasser read into the record of the minutes suggested wording to form an ad-hoc committee:

That the Board of Selectmen creates an ad-hoc committee to review the various alternatives available for managing the functions of the Sewer Authority in the Town of Brookfield. The purpose of the committee is to make recommendations as to the most efficient and effective way to manage the Town's Sewerage facilities to:

1. Insure sustainable and efficient technical and cost effective operations.

2. Insure its revenues are sufficient to meet its bond repayment obligations, operating costs and repair/replacement costs.
3. The sources of revenue and methods to achieve said revenue are fair to all users and have the least possible financial impact on users.

Such review should include but is not limited to:

- Benefits of maintaining the current organization of a separate WPCA.
- Amending the current organization to include additional fiscal oversight.
- Consolidating the functions either technical and or financial within the Town Operating Departments.
- Any and all other possibilities authorized by CT statutes.

The committee shall make recommendations as to any ordinance or amendments to existing ordinance necessary to implement its recommendations.

The committee shall be made up of five electors from the town to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

The Committee shall make its report to the Board of Selectmen on or before January 15, 2013 unless the Board of Selectmen extends that time.

The Selectmen will consider forming an ad-hoc commission after reviewing Mr. Lasser' suggestions and ideas and discuss their thoughts and ideas of a prototype and potential vote at the August Board of Selectmen meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

ADJOURN: George Walker made motion to adjourn at 9:12 p.m., seconded by Howard Lasser. Motion carried unanimously.

William R. Davidson

Howard Lasser

George F. Walker

First Selectman

Selectman

Selectman