

Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 5, 2009
Brookfield Town Hall, Lunch Room

Meeting Minutes

Advisory Members Present: Heather Lemieux, Robert Barnes, Barbara Wilson, Greg Burnham, Marc Charpentier, John David Holdcraft (7:34 pm), Stephen Comtois II (8:19 pm).

Advisory Members Absent: Bev Lund.

Others Present: James Cook; Lois Moore; Donald Faugno; Peter O'Connell.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Lemieux at 7:04 p.m.

New Business

- **School Committee Member James Cook:** School Committee Member James Cook came to discuss Brookfield's Assessment figure with the Advisory Committee. J. Cook explained that the total operating budget is 19.2 million, which is a slight decrease from FY09. The assessment for Brookfield is increasing by \$12,000. The State increased Brookfield's assessment because of growth in income and new revenue growth. J. Cook said the School has \$500,000 in School Choice funds and he is recommending taking \$100,000 from School Choice funds to lower our assessment. Another option is to vote down the budget as presented. In order for the budget not to pass, need two of the district towns to vote down the budget. The School discussed putting the school choice funds into the E&D Account; can only have 5% of overall budget in E&D account. B. Wilson said the School gave the impression that they would ask the other towns to help out to lower the assessment for Brookfield; J. Cook said you would need the support of at least one other town. H. Lemieux will contact the Advisory Board Chair in Brimfield to see how Brimfield feels about their increased assessment.
- **Tax Collector FY10 Budget:** Tax Collector Lois Moore said postage increasing so that line item may increase. L. Moore said the fuel line item is for going to the bank. L. Moore said the only line item that could be cut would be the education line item. Subscription line item is for the bond. B. Wilson asked about having the postage metered for bills. L. Moore said that real estate bills go out once a year and did look into having the postage metered and it was going to cost more. B. Wilson asked if Excise taxes were down; L. Moore said she hasn't done a comparison but can get that information for the Board.
- **Printing of the Warrant Booklet:** The Advisory Committee agreed to print out enough for ATE in addition to leaving copies at the Town Hall and Library. H. Lemieux will find out number of people who voted at the last Town Election and increase that figure to hand out at the town buildings. Will check to see if lessening the number of booklets printed changes the cost per booklet.
G. Burnham moved to hire the same printer as last year's printer of the warrant and N. Thomo seconded. Approved unanimously.
- **Elementary School Committee Members:** School Committee members Donald Faugno and Peter O'Connell came to see the current status of the budget. H. Lemieux told them right now over \$85,000 using the Governor's proposed budget that includes the meals and lodging revenues. M. Charpentier asked what their thoughts were on

using school choice funds to lower our assessment. Both members said they don't think will get support from Brimfield, the only other town whose assessment increased. The School Committee members said Superintendent Durgin is looking to lower assessments. H. Lemieux said she would email D. Faugno the figures and speak after D. Faugno reviews them.

- **Deficit Spending the Snow and Ice Account:** *N. Thomo moved and S. Comtois II seconded to approve the deficit spending the Snow and Ice Account and ask the Town Accountant for a printout of the Snow and Ice Account and when the Highway Superintendent comes in explain the expenditures for FY09. Approved unanimously.*
- **STM:** *B. Wilson said that the Selectmen decided to schedule a Special Town Meeting for March 30, 2009 and that all articles should be in by March 10, 2009. The Town Hall Barrier Removal Committee is requesting between \$10,000-\$20,000. Selectmen Allen is requesting funds for Worcester County Retirement and Unemployment Insurance.*

Approval of Minutes of February 19, 2009: *G. Burnham moved to accept the Minutes of February 25, 2009 as written, seconded by B. Wilson. Approved unanimously.*

Old Business:

- **Advisory Committee Members Attendance:** *B. Wilson moved and G. Burnham seconded to appoint Marc Charpentier to finish his term. Approved unanimously.*

Adjournment: *G. Burnham moved and N. Thomo seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 pm. Approved unanimously.*

Respectfully Submitted:
Heather Lemieux

Date Approved: March 26, 2009