

MINUTES OF  
THE BROOKFIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APRIL 26, 2012

THE BROOKFIELD TOWN HALL KITCHEN

Members Present: Ana Afton, Ian von Hold, Michael Breuer, Gerald Johnson, Mary Beth Harrity, Roger LaFluer, Tim Roughan

Members Not Present: Paul Ayers, Cindy Mundell

Guest: Peter O'Connell – Chair, Board of Selectmen

The meeting was called to order at 7:02PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Reserve Fund Request

A Reserve Fund request from the Selectmen in the amount of \$300 was presented. It is for the purpose of purchasing a computer and related software for document retention.

Ian von Hold motioned to approve the request

Ana Afton seconded

The vote was: Ian von Hold – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Michael Breuer – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes, Roger LaFleur – yes, Tim Roughan – yes

Motion Carried

## Schools

The total school budget of \$4,298,300 was discussed. Peter O'Connell noted that this figure includes a \$50,000 reduction in the Elementary School assessment.

Michael Breuer motioned to accept the school budget at \$4,298,300

Ana Afton seconded

The vote was: Michael Breuer – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Ian von Hold – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes, Roger LaFluer – yes, Tim Roughan – yes

Motion Carried

## Highway Department

Peter O'Connell explained that the Overtime/Other account is being changed to the Part Time/Overtime account and that the PartTime/Office Clerk account is being changed to the Administrative Assistant account to better reflect the expenses in those areas.

Mary Beth Harrity motioned to accept the Highway budget at \$201,123

Roger LaFluer seconded

The vote was: Mary Beth Harrity – yes, Roger LaFluer – yes, Michael Breuer – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Ian von Hold – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Tim Roughan – yes

Motion Carried

Snow & Ice - \$50,000

Street Lights - \$12,000

Sidewalks - \$0

These items were voted as a block.

Ian von Hold motioned to accept these items at the figures shown

Tim Roughan seconded

The vote was: Ian von Hold – yes, Tim Roughan – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes, Roger LaFluer yes, Michael Breuer – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Ana Afton – yes

Motion Carried

## Cemetery

Roger LaFluer motioned to accept the Cemetery budget at \$26,072 (Note: the Cemetery budget includes a reduction in the Cemetery Expense line item to \$0)

Ian von Hold seconded

The vote was: Roger LaFluer – yes, Ian von Hold – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Michael Breuer – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes, Tim Roughan – yes

Motion Carried

## Board of Health

Roger LaFluer motioned to accept the Board of Health budget at \$14,515

Tim Roughan seconded

The vote was: Roger LaFluer – yes, Tim Roughan – yes, Ian von Hold – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Michael Breuer – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes

Motion Carried

## Community Health Program

Tim Roughan motioned to accept the Community Health Program budget at \$961

Ana Afton seconded

The vote was: Tim Roughan – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Roger LaFluer – yes, Ian von Hold – yes, Michael Breuer – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes

Motion Carried

## Council on Aging

Ian von Hold motioned to accept the Council on Aging budget at \$4,663

Roger LaFluer seconded

The vote was: Ian von Hold – yes, Roger LaFluer – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Tim Roughan – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes

Motion Carried

## Veteran's Services

Roger LaFluer motioned to accept the Veteran's Services budget at \$23,771

Mary Beth Harrity seconded

The vote was: Roger LaFluer – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Michael Breuer – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Ian von Hold – yes, Tim Roughan – yes

Motion Carried

## Library

Tim Roughan motioned to accept the Library budget at \$106,058.

Roger LaFluer seconded

The vote was: Tim Roughan – yes, Roger LaFluer – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Michael Breuer – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Ian von Hold – yes

Motion Carried

## Recreation

Tim Roughan motioned to accept the Recreation Committee budget at \$11,692

Roger LaFluer seconded

The vote was: Tim Roughan – yes, Roger LaFluer – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Michael Breuer – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Ian von Hold – yes

Motion Carried

Historical Commission - \$1,125

Memorial Day - \$3,200

Cultural Council Expenses - \$8,650

These items were voted as a block.

Tim Roughan motioned to accept these budgets at the figures shown

Ana Afton seconded

The vote was: Tim Roughan – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Roger LaFluer – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes, Michael Breuer – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Ian von Hold – yes

Motion Carried

Phil Peirce

Phil Peirce – Chair of the Assessors came in and asked if he could make a statement.

Ian von Hold motioned to allow Phil to speak

Tim Roughan seconded

The vote was: Ian von Hold – yes, Tim Roughan – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Michael Breuer – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Roger LaFluer – yes

Motion Carried

Phil explained the difference between the Levy Limit and the Levy Ceiling. He explained that the Levy Limit is defined as the previous year's levy + 2.5% + New Growth. He went on to explain that the Levy Ceiling is defined as the total valuation of property in the Town x 2.5%. He explained that the Town spending cannot exceed the Levy Ceiling. He said his concerns stem from the fact that 2014 is a revaluation year. The property values are projected to drop "about 20%" as a result of that revaluation. He went on to say that if that occurs, the Town could have a problem with the Levy Ceiling.

#### Selectmen Municipal Clerk Wages

Peter O'Connell explained that the Treasurer Clerk and Tax Collector Clerk will be rolled into this account. The figure will be \$27,625 (38 hrs./week @\$13.98/hr.). This represents an increase of \$3,645.

Tim Roughan motioned to accept the figure of \$27,625

Roger LaFluer seconded

The vote was: Tim Roughan – yes, Roger LaFluer – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes, Ian von Hold – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes,

Michael Breuer – No Michael Breuer stated that he felt there should be no increase

Motion Carried

## Treasurer's Salary

Peter O'Connell stated that, relative to Towns in the area, the Treasurer's salary is too low. Ana Afton asked "what is the current hourly rate for the position?" Peter O'Connell answered that it is \$16.03. He proposed increasing the hourly rate to \$18.29 (\$28,538/year).

Tim Roughan motioned to accept the increase

Ian von Hold seconded

The vote was: Tim Roughan – yes, Ian von Hold – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Michael Breuer – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes, Roger LaFluer – yes

Motion Carried

## Debt & Interest

Roger LaFluer motioned to accept Debt & Interest at \$245,113

Mary Beth Harrity seconded

The vote was: Roger LaFluer – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Michael Breuer – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Ian von Hold – yes, Tim Roughan – yes

Motion Carried

## Assessments & Mandated Expenses

Peter O'Connell explained that the figure for this item is down from \$651,909 to \$643,897 because of a decrease in Group Life and Health premiums and a decrease in General Insurance premiums.

Roger LaFluer motioned to accept Assessments & Mandated Expenses at \$643,897

Ian von Hold seconded

The vote was: Roger LaFluer – yes, Ian von Hold – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Michael Breuer – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Tim Roughan – yes

Motion Carried

## Bannister Mall

The Advisory Committee could not tell what the purpose of this budget item was. It was, therefore decided not to approve the request until further information could be developed.

Roger LaFluer motioned to NOT approve the budget item at \$1,050

Mary Beth Harrity seconded

The vote was: Roger LaFluer – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Michael Breuer – yes, Ian von Hold – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Tim Roughan – yes

Motion Carried

## Town Hall Expense Line Item

Peter O'Connell explained that this line item was being increased from \$8,615 to \$11,615. The additional \$3,000 was to buy seed, fertilizer, etc. for the Town Common and Mall. Bill Thompson (Town Hall custodian) has offered to donate his time to apply the seed and fertilizer in the future, a new line item in the Town Hall budget, the Municipal Maintenance and Improvement Account, will be used for this purpose.

Mary Beth Harrity motioned to accept the increase from \$8,615 to \$11,615

Roger LaFluer seconded

The vote was: Mary Beth Harrity – yes, Roger LaFluer – yes, Ana Afton – yes, Michael Breuer – yes, Ian von Hold – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Tim Roughan – yes

Motion Carried

## Adjourn

Roger LaFluer motioned to adjourn

Michael Breuer seconded

The vote was: Roger LaFluer = yes, Michael Breuer – yes, Mary Beth Harrity – yes, Ana Afton yes, Ian von Hold – yes, Gerald Johnson – yes, Tim Roughan – yes

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 9:15PM

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Gerald L. Johnson Jr. – Chair**

**Brookfield Advisory Committee**