THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT
FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2015
BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

WORCESTER, SS:

TO EITHER OF THE CONSTABLES OF THE TOWN OF BROOKFIELD IN THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER

GREETINGS:

IN THE NAME OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, YOU ARE HEREBY DIRECTED TO NOTIFY AND WARN THE INHABITANTS OF SAID TOWN, QUALIFIED TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS AND IN TOWN AFFAIRS, TO MEET AT THE **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**, 37 CENTRAL STREET, BROOKFIELD, MA ON **FRIDAY THE FIFTH DAY OF JUNE IN THE YEAR 2015** AT **7:00 P.M**. THEN AND THERE TO ACT ON THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES:

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to accept the annual report of the Town officials, as printed, or take any action relative thereto.

The Town voted by voice majority to accept the Annual Town Report as printed.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the ensuing year, or take any action relative thereto.

The Town voted by voice majority to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the ensuing year.

Articles shown in the box below are on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant every year and are often voted as a block. The Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Committee unanimously support these articles.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, section 4 and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, section 17, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to foreclose on certain Tax Titles held by the Treasurer, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Selectmen or their agent to sell for the Town any land or building acquired by the Town by Tax Title foreclosure after first giving notice of said sale, by posting a notice at the Town Hall and the Post Office, 14 days at least before said sale stating what parcels are to be sold or offered for sale and the time and place of holding said sale, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to sell any old and obsolete equipment or personal property by sealed bids; at public auction after first giving notice of the time and place of sale by posting such notice of sale in some convenient and public place in Town, and by advertising once in a local newspaper, fourteen days at least before the sale, any old and obsolete equipment or personal property, provided that the Selectmen or whomsoever they may authorize to hold such auction or sale may reject any bid which they deem inadequate; or at an established market, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for any and to expend any State, Federal or other grants that may become available to the Town of Brookfield, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health to appoint one of its members to hold the position of Health Agent, Title V Administrator, and Transfer Station Administrator and to provide compensation therefore, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving fund for the Brookfield Local Public Access under M.G.L. Chapter 44, section 53E ½ or any successor committee and to authorize the license fee paid by Charter Cable and all monies raised through advertising and fundraising to be deposited in said revolving fund, provided that no monies shall be expended in excess of $15,000.00 per year, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a revolving fund for the Board of Health under M.G.L. Chapter 44, section 53E ½ and to receive monies derived from engineering, inspection, and review fees charged in relation to witnessing of percolation test, septic plan review, site inspections, and resolution of variances, and to expend these monies to pay all costs associated with the Inspector's/Professional Engineer's review of said activities provided that no monies shall be expended in excess of $20,000.00 per year, or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize a Revolving Fund for the Regional Highway Equipment Cooperative under M. G. L., Chapter 44, section 53E ½, and to be administered and expended in accordance with the Regional Highway Equipment Cooperative Agreement, and to receive monies from fees, grants, donations and other sources to purchase, repair, or replace equipment owned in common by the member communities provided that no monies shall be expended in excess of $20,000 per year, or take any action thereon.

The purpose of the article is to maintain a capital fund for the repair, replacement and purchase of equipment owned in common with the other member communities of the Regional Highway Equipment Cooperative. Brookfield is the lead community in the program and manages the account. Funds could accrue through equipment fees, grants, donations or other sources. The Board of Directors of the Cooperative would authorize expenditures and request the Board of Selectmen to ratify the payment through the regular expense warrant.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health to fund additional betterment projects through the existing Community Septic Management Program account, or take any action relative thereto.

The Board of Health already has money in an account which may be used for septic loans to qualified residents. An annual re-authorization by Town Meeting is required to loan these funds.

The Town unanimously voted to accept articles 3 through 12 as written in the Town Warrant, except that the phrases "or take any action relative thereto" be omitted.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to transfer the care, custody, management and control of a parcel of land known as Cooley Hill Reservoir in North Brookfield, containing approximately 15 acres as referenced in the following deeds recorded at the Worcester Registry

of Deeds from: 1) Albert King to the Town of Brookfield Book 1263 Page 128; 2) Charles P. Blanchard Book 1367, Page 104, 3) Abbey F. Means Book 2006, Page 494 and 4) Grantor Abbey F. Means Book 2006, Pages 494 – 495 from the Board of Selectmen and Water Commissioners for the purpose for which such land is currently held to the Board of Selectmen for the purpose of conveyance and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sell the parcel of land per the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30B, as applicable, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to seek legislative approval for such conveyance under Article 97 of the Amendments to the Massachusetts Constitution, such conveyance to become effective when the Board of Selectmen and/or Water Commissioners determines that the aforesaid property is no longer needed for water supply purposes and upon the enactment of said Article 97 legislation; or take any other action relative thereto. *(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.)*

To allow the Board of Selectmen the ability to transfer the property to someone other than a non-profit organization.
The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee recommends this article 3 to 2 (abstained).

The Town voted by a required 2/3rds standing majority 49 to 13 to accept article 13 as written in the Town Warrant except that the phrase "or take any action relative thereto" be omitted.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to begin to bring the Town Hall, including the existing Town Hall bathroom up to ADA compliance, or take any action thereto. *(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.)*
$50,000

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee recommends this article 3 to 2.

The Town voted by a standing majority 48 to 12 to transfer the sum of $50,000 dollars from Free Cash to the Town Hall Improvement Account to bring the Town Hall, including the existing Town Hall Bathroom up to ADA compliance.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Municipal Property Maintenance Account to the Municipal Septic Account, or take any action thereto. *(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.)*

To move septic funds into a specific account.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously recommends this article pass.

The Town unanimously voted to transfer the sum of $34,000 from the Municipal Property Maintenance Account to the Municipal Septic Account.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Municipal Septic Account, or take any action thereto. *(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.)*

Additional funds for Town Hall septic inclusion.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee does not recommend this article pass.

The Town voted to Passover Article 16.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Municipal Property Maintenance Account to convert the Town Hall furnace from oil to gas, or take any action thereto. *(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.)*

The conversion could potentially save the town thousands of dollars in annual heating costs.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously recommends this article pass.

The Town voted by a standing majority 49 in favor to 4 opposed to transfer the sum of $11,500.00 dollars from Free Cash to the Municipal Property Maintenance Account to convert the Town Hall furnace from oil to gas.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Municipal Property Maintenance Account to convert the Fire Station furnace from oil to gas, or take any action thereto. *(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen.)*

The conversion could potentially save the town thousands of dollars in annual heating costs.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously recommends this article pass.

The Town unanimously voted to transfer the sum of $15,500.00 from Free Cash to the Municipal Property Maintenance Account to convert the Fire Station furnace from oil to gas.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved Account to fund the fiscal 2016 Emergency Squad Expense Account, or take any action thereto. *(Sponsored by the Emergency Squad.)*

To fund FY16 expenses

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously recommends this article pass.

The Town unanimously voted to transfer the sum of $40,000.00 dollars from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved Account to fund the fiscal 2016 Emergency Squad Expense Account.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved Account to fund the fiscal 2016 Emergency Squad Wages Account, or take any action thereto. *(Sponsored by the Emergency Squad.)*

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously recommends this article pass.

The Town voted to transfer the sum of $167,857.00 dollars from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved Account to fund the fiscal 2016 Emergency Squad Wages Account.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow the sum of one dollar to plow private roads or take any action thereto. (*Sponsored by the Highway Dept.)*

An amount must be voted on to allow the town to plow private roads.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously recommends this article pass.

The Town voted to Passover Article 21.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Road Reconstruction Account or take any action relative thereto. *(Sponsored by the Highway Dept.)*

The Road Reconstruction Account is used for projects and purchases that cannot be paid for from Chapter 90 funds. These include, but are not limited to, patching potholes, repairs to short segments of roads, repairing drainage and catch basins, surveying, etc.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously recommends this article pass.

The Town unanimously voted to Raise and Appropriate the sum of $35,000.00 dollars to the Road and Reconstruction Account.

ARTICLE 23 : To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Center Line Painting Account or take any action relative thereto. (*Sponsored by the Highway Dept.)*

A study by the American Safety Services Association and the National Association of County Engineers found that on two-lane rural roads with an average daily traffic (ADT) of at least 500 vehicles per day, edge lines yield $17 in safety benefits for every dollar invested.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously recommends this article pass.

The Town unanimously voted to transfer the sum of $7,500.00 dollars from Free Cash to the Center Line Painting Account.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Fleet Replace/Repair Account to replace the cab and chassis on the 1980 Mack Truck, or take any action relative thereto. *(Sponsored by the Highway Dept.)*
$50,000

The 1980 Mack Truck is 35 years old and was scheduled to be replaced in 2013. This truck is one of the key pieces of equipment for snow removal operations.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously does not recommend this article pass.
The Advisory Committee does not recommend this article pass 4 to 1.

The Town voted by a 36 to 16 majority to Passover Article 24.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Fleet Replace/Repair Account to purchase a new truck to replace the 1980 Mack Truck, or take any action relative thereto. *(Sponsored by the Highway Dept.)*
$200,000

The 1980 Mack Truck has significant frame, cab, and rust issues. The vehicle is in need of major repair.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously does not recommend this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously does not recommend this article pass.

The Town unanimously voted to Passover Article 25.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Library Building Repair and Maintenance Account, or take any action relative thereto. *(Sponsored by the Library.)*

The Trustrees and staff continue to prioritize upgrades and maintenance to the library. The funds will be used for ramp door to ADA compliance, furnace replacement – converting oil to natural gas, and begin to repoint the north side of the building.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously recommends this article pass.

The Town unanimously voted to transfer the sum of $17,000 from Free Cash to the Library Building Repair and Maintenance Account.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to purchase protective clothing and air bottles for the fire department or take any action relative thereto. *(By petition.)*

By national standards, protective clothing cannot be used after ten years. There are several members that need to have their protective clothing replaced. Clothing vests are approximately $1,100 per item (coat or pants). Air bottles are regulated for a life span of fifteen years. During FY16, 19 bottles will expire. There are funds in place to purchase 12. Replacement costs are approximately $1,000 per bottle.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously recommends this article pass.

The Town unanimously voted to transfer the sum of $16,000.00 dollars from Stabilization to purchase protective clothing and air bottles for the fire department.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to the Fleet Repair/Replace Account to purchase a replacement for the 2000 cruiser for the fire department or take any action relative thereto. (*By petition*.)
$38,500

The current 2000 cruiser is a two wheel drive sedan that was purchased from the Amherst Fire Dept. and has over 156,000 miles on it. Its size, two wheel drive capability, and lack of trailering abilities limits its effectiveness.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously does not recommend this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously does not recommend this article pass.

The Town voted by a voice majority to Passover Article 28.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer or borrow a sum of money to purchase a replacement cab and chassis for the 1986 forest fire utility truck for the fire department or take any action relative thereto. (*By petition*.)
$46,500

The current 1986 truck originally served the town as a highway department vehicle, and was later used by the fire department as a forestry/utility truck. It is in need of several thousand dollars of repairs, and we do not feel that it is a worthwhile investment for a 29 year old truck. This truck serves as the primary brush fire truck and the primary severe weather response vehicle. The 1986 was taken out of service in the summer of 2014. This left the department without a practical all-wheel drive utility vehicle and without the means to transport any of the town's emergency use trailers.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously does not recommend this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously does not recommend this article pass.
The Town by voice majority voted to Passover Article 29.

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to dedicate the new Quaboag River Bridge to be named "Citizens Bridge" in memory of Joseph F. Murray. Also to allow the Memorial Committee to place a granite engraved bench, in memory of Mr. Murray, to be located within the Lookout Area of said bridge, using no town funds. (*By petition.*)

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee did not vote as it is not a financial or policy article.

The Town unanimously voted to dedicate the new Quaboag River Bridge to be named Joseph F. Murray Memorial Bridge in memory of Joseph F. Murray And to allow the Memorial Committee to place a granite engraved bench, in memory of Mr. Murray, to be located within the Lookout Area of said Bridge, and that no town funds shall be used for this project.

ARTICLE 31: To see whether the town of Brookfield shall revise the wording of Chapter IV Advisory Committee from the Town Bylaws and replace it with the text below, or take any action relative thereto.

Chapter IV: Advisory Committee
SECTION 1:
There shall be an Advisory Committee for the Town to which shall be referred all articles in any warrant hereafter issued for a Town Meeting. The Selectmen, after drawing a warrant for a Town Meeting, shall immediately forward a copy thereof to each member of said committee, which shall consider all articles in the warrant and make such report, in print or otherwise to the Town Meeting as it deems for the best interest of the Town. The Committee will also make reports and issue recommendations for all articles, questions or other matters referring to Proposition 2 ½ so called.
The said committee shall consist of nine legal voters of the Town to be elected as provided in Section 2. Selectmen, school committee members, any head of any town department or agency, or full-time town employees shall be prohibited from serving on this committee. If any member is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings of said committee, except in case of illness, his position shall be deemed to be vacant and shall be filed as provided in Section 3. (Amended 5/2006)
SECTION 2:
In the year following adoption of this by-law, the process of electing Advisory Board members shall begin. Voters at the annual Town Election shall choose those board members whose terms would expire in that year at the Annual Town Meeting and that process of electing members shall continue each year to take place as the terms of appointed members expire. Each elected Advisory Board member shall then hold his or her office for a period of three years with the term expiring on the date of the Annual Town Election.
Said committee shall choose its own chairman who shall hold the office for one year.
SECTION 3.
Whenever a vacancy occurs in said Committee, whether due to death, resignation, or failure to attend consecutive meetings, the Board of Selectmen by majority vote shall appoint a person to serve as a replacement on the Advisory Board until the next Annual Town Election, when an election shall be conducted to fill that seat for the remainder of the term.
SECTION 4.
In the discharge of its duty, said Committee shall have free access to all books or records and accounts, bills and vouchers on which money has been or may be paid from the Town treasury. All department managers or appointed officials must comply with any request to furnish information to the board.
Failure to comply with requests may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal from employment or an appointed position. Upon a written complaint by the Advisory Board the Selectmen shall hold a public hearing on a failure to comply with a request for information and take appropriate action to enforce this provision in the bylaw. *(By petition)*

The Board of Selectmen unanimously does not recommend this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously does not recommend this article pass.

The Town voted to Passover Article 31.

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to include a Section 5 in Chapter IV, Advisory Committee of the Town bylaw as stated below or take any action relative thereto. *(By petition)*
Chapter IV Advisory Committee, SECTION 5
Each member of Advisory Committee shall receive a yearly stipend, the amount of which shall be set each year at the annual town meeting.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously does not recommend this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously does not recommend this article pass.

The town voted by a voice majority to defeat Article 32.

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General By-laws by deleting Chapter II Town Meetings Section 1, which provides: "The Annual Town Election shall be held on the first Monday of May of each year. The Annual Town Meeting shall be held on the first Friday following the Annual Town Election in May," and inserting it its place "the scheduling of the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election shall be governed by G.L. c.39, §9 and §9A.", and re-numbering the remaining sections in this chapter accordingly. *(Sponsored by the By-Law Committee)*

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously recommends this article pass.

The By-Law Committee unanimously recommends passage of this article. It has been many years since the Annual Town Meeting was held in May. It has been held in June due to the increasing lateness of the state Cherry Sheets received by the Town. The MGL cited states towns may hold their meetings in February, March, April, May, or June.

The Town voted unanimously to amend the Town's General By-Laws by deleting the 2nd sentence of Chapter II Town Meetings Section 1, so that it reads as follows: The Annual Town Election shall be held on the first Monday of May each year.

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General By-Laws by deleting Chapter II Town Meetings, Section 4, which provides: "Notice of every Special Town Meeting shall be given by posting an attested copy of the warrant as specified in Section 2 and further notice shall be given at least one day prior to said Special Town Meeting by printing on a board in front of the Town Hall the date and time of holding said Special Town Meeting," and re-numbering the remaining sections in this chapter accordingly. (*Sponsored by the By-Law Committee)*

The By-Law Committee unanimously recommends passage of this article. This practice has not been strictly adhered to in the past. Also, Mass General Law governs the particulars of posting a Special Town Meeting, and state laws take precedent over local by-laws.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously recommends this article pass.

The Town voted by a moderator declared voice majority to amend the Town's General By-Laws by deleting Chapter II Town Meetings, Section 4, which provides: "Notice of every Special Town Meeting shall be given by posting an attested copy of the warrant as specified in Section 2 and further notice shall be given at least one day prior to said Special Town Meeting by printing on a board in front of the Town Hall the date and time of holding said Special Town Meeting," and re-numbering the remaining sections in this chapter accordingly.

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General Bylaws as follows, or take any action relative thereto:

Delete Chapter III Town Officers Section 4 Procedure for the Appointment of Treasurer, which provides: "A Screening Committee composed of seven persons will establish the qualifications, review the applications and make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen of, at most, three candidates. The Screening Committee will be composed of one member of the Board of Selectmen, one of the Advisory Committee, one member of the Personnel Board, and four citizens chosen by the Town Moderator. The four citizens chosen, will, in so far as possible, have backgrounds in municipal finance, accounting, data processing, banking, law or other similar fields. The Board of Selectmen will appoint for a term of three years a candidate recommended by the Screening Committee." *(Sponsored by the By-Law Committee)*

The By-Law Committee unanimously recommends passage of this article. This by-law compels a screening committee to be formed only for the Treasurer's position, and no other town position. It is the By-Law Committee's opinion that this is inconsistent, and either screening committees should be formed for all major non-elected town positions, or none at all.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously recommends this article pass.

The Town voted unanimously to amend the Town's General Bylaws by deleting Chapter III, Town Officers, Section 4 Procedure for the Appointment of Treasurer.

ARTICLE 36: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General By-Laws as follows, or take any action relative thereto:
Delete the number five (5) and insert in its place the number three (3) in the last sentence of Chapter IV Advisory Committee, Section 1, so that the provision shall state: "If any member is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings of said committee, except in case of illness, his position shall be deemed to be vacant and shall be filled as provided in *Section 3." (Sponsored by the By-Law Committee)*

The By-Law Committee unanimously recommends passage of this article. This by-law says that members of the Advisory Committee can miss 5 consecutive meetings before they have to give up their seat. Given the important nature of the Advisory Committee, especially during budget season, the By-Law Committee feels five (5) consecutive meetings, except in the case of illness, is too many meetings to miss consecutively.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Committee unanimously recommends this article pass.

The Town voted by a standing majority 22 to 17 to Passover Article 36.

ARTICLE 37: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General By-Laws as follows, or take any action relative thereto:
Amend Chapter IV Advisory Committee, Section 3, by deleting the phrase "said Committee" and inserting the text shown below in bold, with the existing text not being changed, shown in regular type for informational purposes only: "Whenever a vacancy occurs in said Committee, said vacancy shall be filled by a **joint appointment by both the Advisory Committee and Board of Selectmen** of a person to serve until the close of the next Annual Town Meeting when the Selectmen in office shall appoint, in the same manner as the original appointment, a successor to fill out the unexpired term of the person whose office has been vacated." *(Sponsored by the By-Law Committee)*

The By-Law Committee unanimously recommends passage of this article. This by-law outlines how vacancies are to be filled. The By-Law Committee felt that a joint appointment would be more advantageous, and that having just the Advisory Committee or just the Board of Selectmen fill vacancies left too much room for politics. Also, many other Town boards and committees, such as the School Committee and Planning Board, fill vacancies with joint appointments.

The Board of Selectmen recommends 2 to 1 this article does not pass.
The Advisory Board unanimously does not recommend this article pass.

The Town voted by a standing majority 24 to 16 to Pass Over Article 37.

ARTICLE 38: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General By-Laws as follows, or take any action relative thereto:
Amend Chapter VII Legal Affairs, Section 4, by inserting the text shown below in bold and deleting the text shown in strike-through, with the existing text not being changed shown in regular type for informational purposes only: ~~"The Selectmen shall annually in May, after final adjournment of the Annual Town Meeting, appoint a person who is a member of the bar in good standing, to serve as Town Counsel for a term of one year from the first day of June following and until his successor is appointed and enters upon the performance of his duties. They shall likewise fill any vacancy in said office for the unexpired term and may employ a special counsel to assist the said Counsel whenever, in their judgement, necessity arises,"~~
~~to reflect the following language:~~ "The Selectmen shall annually in May, after the final adjournment of the Annual Town Meeting, appoint a person **or firm who is, as an individual or firm, is either a member of the bar in good standing or composed of members of the bar in good standing,** to serve as Town Counsel for a term of one year from the first day of June following and until ~~his~~ **a** successor is appointed and enters upon the performance of his, **or their** duties. They shall likewise fill any vacancy in said office for the unexpired term and may **employ a S**pecial **C**ounsel to assist the said Counsel whenever, in in their judgment, necessity arises." (*Sponsored by the By-Law Committee*)

The By-Law Committee unanimously recommends passage of this article. For the past several years, the Town has hired a firm, not a person, to serve as Town Counsel. This change would allow the Town to be in compliance with its own by-laws.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Board unanimously recommends this article pass.

The Town voted by a voice majority to recommit Article 38 to the By-Law Committee.

ARTICLE 39: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General By-Laws as follows, or take any action relative thereto:
Delete Chapter IX Traffic Regulations, Section 1**,** which provides, **"**The Board of Selectmen shall, from time to time, establish and publish, by publication in a newspaper, rules and regulations for the control of traffic, speed and parking of vehicles and shall see to their enforcement by the police department." *(Sponsored by the By-Law Committee)*

The By-Law Committee unanimously recommends passage of this article. This by-law is very vague in that it compels the Board of Selectmen to perform this act "from time to time." No one can remember this ever being done. A consultation with the Police Chief revealed he has never seen this done, and sees no need for it. If the Town feels this by-law should stay active, the language should at least change to be more specific regarding when the publication is done.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Board unanimously recommends this article pass

The Town unanimously voted to amend the Town's General By-Laws by deleting Chapter IX, Traffic Regulations, Section 1.

ARTICLE 40: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General By-Laws as follows, or take any action relative thereto:
Amend Chapter V Financial Affairs, Section 1, by deleting, in the first sentence "three" and changing the word "years" to "year," and by inserting the text shown below in bold and deleting the text shown in strike-through, with the existing text not being changed shown in regular type for informational purposes only: "An audit of the accounts of the Town shall be made at least once every ~~three~~ year~~s~~ in accordance with Federal Revenue Sharing regulations."
If so authorized by a majority vote of the Town Meeting by the vote in support of funds for the purpose of performing such audit or other specific third party accounting accuracy review, the Town shall cause to be performed such an annual audit, or at such other ~~annual or at whatever~~ interval as may be voted ~~is supported~~ by the Town Meeting. An audit shall also be conducted upon the change of person holding an office of a bonded financial officer of the Town, including but not limited to the Treasurer, Tax Collector, or Town Accountant.
Audits and reconciliations performed by a public accounting firm under this section shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted government t auditing standards, including the issuance of a report on internal control over financial reporting that shall be provided to recipients of the financial statements. When there are material weaknesses or significant deficiencies found in the internal control over financial reporting or the auditor's or public accountant's opinion is qualified, adverse, or disclaimed:
(1) The next published annual report of the Town shall include a summary of material weaknesses or significant deficiencies found in the internal controls over financial reporting or a statement that the audit report sets forth an opinion that is qualified, adverse, or disclaimed; and
(2) The Board of Selectmen shall post the audit report and the accompanying report on internal control over financial reporting on the Town website and provide written copies upon request." (*Sponsored by the By-Law Committee*)

The By-Law Committee unanimously recommends passage of this article. Currently, the Town is only compelled to conduct an audit every three years. This article would give the Town the option of conducting one more often than that, for example when a Treasurer, Tax Collector or Town Accountant leaves their position. It also compels the Town to make audit reports more readily available to Town residents, thus increasing transparency.

The Board of Selectmen 2 to 1 recommends this article pass.
The Advisory Board unanimously recommends this article pass.

The Town voted by a voice majority to recommit Article 40 to the By-Law Committee.

ARTICLE 41: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's General By-Laws by adding the following Chapter 15 Personnel Bylaw section 31, Police Dept. Academy Training or take any action relative thereto.
"Any full time police officer hired by the Town of Brookfield shall be academy trained at the time of employment. Any part time officer promoted to full time shall be academy trained as a full time officer at his or her own expense." *(Sponsored by the By-Law Committee)*

The By-Law Committee voted 3-1 to recommend passage this article.

The Board of Selectmen 2 to 1 does not recommend this article pass.
The Advisory Board 3 to 2 does not recommend this article pass.

The Town voted by a voice majority to pass over article 41.

The meeting adjourned at 10: 48 p.m. There were 72 registered voters at the Annual Town Meeting.

And you are directed to serve this warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof, at the Town Hall and Post Office in said Town, seven days at least before the time of the holding of said meeting.

Hereof, fail not, and make due return of this warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of the meeting, as aforesaid. Given under our hands this day of in the year Two Thousand and Fifteen.

Respectfully Submitted,

SELECTMEN OF BROOKFIELD

_____
Stephen J. Comtois II, Chairman

_____
Linda M. Lincoln, Vice Chairman

_____
Clarence R. Snyder III, Clerk

A True Copy, Attest:

_____
Richard A. Lapierre
Constable of Brookfield

Worcester, SS:
Brookfield, Massachusetts

Pursuant to the within warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Brookfield by posting attested copies of same at the U.S. Post Office on Thursday May 28, 2015 and at the Brookfield Town Hall on the same day.
Seven days before the date of the meeting, as within directed.

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Richard A. Lapierre
Constable of Brookfield

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

MICHAEL P. SEERY, TOWN CLERK