

DEDICATION

It is with great pride that we dedicate this Annual Town Report to Lynda Demuth Plante.

From the long list of Lynda's accomplishments, we can get a picture of this *classy* woman who liked to keep herself busy.

She was educated at Brandeis University (BES in Politics) and Clark University (MBA Degree). She taught in the Leicester School system; worked in Worcester for Model Cities Program and the Office of Human Service Programs; and at Norton Company, in financial, marketing, and systems positions. After her retirement, Lynda worked for small businesses, specializing in accounting and finance.



Tiger Lily & Lynda

Lynda was a *devoted volunteer* serving on the Board of Directors of the Worcester Chapter of the American Red Cross, Family Planning Services of Greater

Worcester, the Worcester Aids Project, the Aids Walk, and the Food Pantry.

It is with overflowing gratitude that we acknowledge Lynda's *selfless service* to our community as a former member of the following boards: the Board of Selectmen, Advisory Board, Elementary School Committee, West Brookfield Elementary and Quaboag Regional Middle/High School Building Committees, and as Town Moderator.

Lynda's life-long achievements and knowledge have greatly affected our little town. Her *dedication* to being *community oriented* might be her greatest legacy to us. The Town will miss her expertise and commitment to the community.

"The truest measure of a person's life is by the long lasting impact they had on your own life." ~ M. Thayer

TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD

WORCESTER COUNTY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ESTABLISHED: 1660 – Quaboag Plantation
INCORPORATED: March 3, 1848
LAND AREA: 20.67 Square Miles
POPULATION: 3,194

LOCATION: Central Massachusetts bordered on the north by North Brookfield, northwest by New Braintree, west by Ware, southwest by Warren, and southeast by Brookfield.

TOPOGRAPHICAL FEATURES: Generally hilly terrain with elevations ranging from 598 to 1,206 feet above sea level. A relatively wide valley crosses the southern portion of the Town where the Quaboag River flows. Wickaboag Pond is the only major body of water.

ELEVATION AT TOWN HALL: 633 feet above sea level

SCHOOL SYSTEM:

Quaboag Regional School (Warren – West Brookfield)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st Massachusetts

John W. Olver, Congressman

1-978-342-8722

UNITED STATES SENATOR:

Scott P. Brown, Senator

1-617-565-3170

John F. Kerry, Senator

1-617-565-8519

STATE SENATORIAL DISTRICT: Franklin, Hampden,
Hampshire, Worcester Counties

Stephen M. Brewer, Senator

1-617-722-1540

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT: 5th Worcester

Anne M. Gobi, Representative

1-617-722-2000

TYPE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

Town Meeting

Board of Selectmen – Three (3) Members

ADA COORDINATOR

The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 USC, 4151 et seq.) requires certain federally assisted buildings to be constructed so as to be accessible to physically handicapped persons and *the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990* (42 USC, 12101 et seq.) prohibits discrimination against disabled individuals in private and public employment, public accommodations, public transportation, government services, and telecommunications.

The Town continues to utilize its Transition Plan to assist in its efforts to comply with ADA.

Respectfully submitted,
Johanna Barry, ADA Coordinator

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee members are appointed by the Selectmen for three-year overlapping terms, and we are charged with reviewing and making recommendations on all articles that appear in any warrant presented to the voters of West Brookfield. In calendar year 2011, we continued to meet regularly throughout the year to fulfill our responsibilities. Agendas for all of our meetings are posted on TVWB and agendas and minutes are posted on the WB web page. An informational meeting sponsored by the Advisory Committee for the residents of the town will be held on Wednesday, April 25, 2012 at the West Brookfield Senior Center beginning at 7:15pm. The

proposed Omnibus Budget and all other articles contained in the Warrant will be discussed. During the last year, Nicole Vongratsamy left the committee to take an elected position with the Board of Assessors, and Tom Schnare departed the board after several years of service. We thank both for their many contributions to the deliberations of the Advisory Committee. Rich Gobi and Tom Long were appointed to fill these vacancies.

Our current fiscal year 2012 West Brookfield operating budget seems to be relatively intact because state revenues are approximating base line estimates. However, as expected, fiscal year 2013 budget requests present some challenges. Although the national and state economies are continuing to grow, slowly, the preliminary forecast for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013 state budget suggests that there will be little, if any, increase in revenue support for cities and towns. Local property tax increases are limited to two and one-half percent, and new growth in real estate activities and fee income sources will continue to be at the lowest levels we have seen in several years. This will mean lower financial resources to support our town and schools.

For fiscal 2013, the Advisory Committee has requested that cost of living salary adjustments, (except for step and grade increases) be limited to 3%, and that budgeted expenses (excluding salary adjustments) be limited to 0% of the approved fiscal year 2012 budgeted expenses. That 0% increase request is proving to be unrealistic due to increases in energy and transportation costs.

Initial information from officials of the Quaboag Regional School District indicate that West Brookfield's share of the state mandated school district minimum

contribution budget for fiscal year 2013 will be \$43,255, or 1.9% more than the foundation budget we approved for fiscal year 2012. In addition, the District will most likely be requesting additional funds above the minimum requirement. At the same time, the Governor’s proposed budget provides for the same support for the Quaboag Regional School District as fiscal year 2012 for a 0% increase. We are frustrated that the state can mandate that a town such as ours can be required to increase our support of the schools while the state does not have to increase their share.

As of this writing, the preliminary operating budget figures for fiscal year 2013, excluding debt, are as follows:

Omnibus town department operating budget requests	\$3,100,639
Education budget requests	3,051,803
Article request for recurring items	145,500
TOTAL recurring operating needs	<u>\$6,297,942</u>
Raise & appropriate funds	\$5,865,076
To be funded from other sources	432,866
TOTAL funding needed	<u>\$6,297,942</u>

Due to the prudent financial management of this and prior Advisory Committees, the Town of West Brookfield has some financial resources for funding budget priorities in times like these. However, these funds are declining as we continue to use them for operational needs. Free cash on hand is now \$191,233.17 (a few years ago free cash was over a million dollars) which could be used to fund some of the amounts needed above our expected income (referred to as “raise and appropriate”) estimate for this year. However, we will need \$432,866 to balance the operating requests received. Currently, we are projecting only \$84,433 in additional free cash at June 30, 2012, leaving us with a problem to find more free cash or to begin the

long avoided task of cutting expense budgets. Adding to the problem is a number of requests to fund capital expenditures for fiscal year 2013.

West Brookfield is fortunate to have three Stabilization accounts. The \$1,306,611 General Stabilization account has been reserved for capital projects, and the Advisory Committee has recommended that the account balance not dip below the higher of one million dollars or 10% of the annual operating budget, or currently, a minimum balance of about \$.6 million. Current capital requests could reduce the general stabilization account to just above \$1.0 million.

The \$214,038 Fire Truck account was established for the purchase of a new truck. We would like to increase that account by about \$30,000 a year over the next several years. The \$2,123,723 Water Stabilization account was created from the receipt of MTBE settlement funds from various oil companies. The Advisory Committee has recommended that these accounts be used for upgrades to the aging well and water distribution system; but to leave a balance of at least \$1.5 million in the account until it is determined that there will never be an MTBE claim the town will have to defend or pay. However, with the development of the new well west of Route 9, the Water Department will propose spending a little over \$1.3 million of this account.

During this last year, we requested that all departments review their capital spending requirements for the next five years. That amount now exceeds \$20 million, with many projects subject to grant and other funding. Therefore, a more detailed schedule will be available for the annual town meeting.

Last year, West Brookfield voters approved a debt exclusion and \$795,000 in expenditures for building and technology upgrades at the West Brookfield Elementary School. Our share of funding for the Quaboag Regional Middle/High School building and technology projects was passed over because Warren voters did not approve a companion action. This year, Warren town officials are considering asking voters to again approve a debt exclusion and expenditures for their elementary school, as well as their share of the Middle/High School projects. If they approve, we will ask our voters to approve our estimated \$379,510 share of the Middle/High School technology and building improvements. We already approved a debt exclusion for this amount, so only a town meeting article expenditure will be needed.

Last year, the Roads Committee presented their recommendations for \$2,502,230 in needed road repair projects. Of the four financing options, the Advisory Committee recommended financing an additional \$150,000 for fiscal year 2012 and thereafter and giving consideration to entering into a bond agreement and debt exclusion at some future town meeting.

Our continuing updated vehicle purchase analysis for the next five years, shared with voters at the town meetings, has proved to be a useful tool. After discussions with department managers, we have deferred a decision to purchase a new fire truck for several years, and considered less expensive options for replacing other vehicles. The Fleet Account report will be available at the town meeting.

With all of our financial needs and limited resources, we are going to have to continue to manage our budget priorities carefully over the next several years.

Respectfully submitted,
Albert F. Collings, Chairman
Rich Gobi Phil Landine
Tom Long Roy Roberts
Jack Tivnan Diane Vayda

ANIMAL INSPECTOR

This year horses are “*in*,” at a large increase from last year. The cost of raising animals is up, but the people raising and caring for these animals continue to do it. It was great to see a Farmer’s Market on the Common.

Again, it was a pleasure to visit with the people who raise and care for these animals.

ANIMAL COUNT 2011

Dairy Cows	25	Horses (2010 -73)	103
Calves	5	Ponies	8
Beef Cows	131	Donkey	5
Calves	26	Goats	20
Steer	5	Sheep	53
Mini-Horses	61	Swine	12
Foals	6	Piglets	30

Respectfully submitted,
Barry Nadon, Sr.

ANNUAL SALARY

Abair, Nickolas	\$344.00	Derry, Kevin	\$344.00
Adams, Kenai	\$808.00	Desantis, Christopher	\$688.00
Allen, Sarah	\$37,840.93	DiMaio, Elisabeth	\$24,316.35
Allen, Virginia	\$2,721.36	DiMaio, James	\$604.10
Anderson, Ashley	\$52.00	DiGrigoli, Dinnea	\$185.25
Anderson, Beverly	\$114.75	Dolan, Jane	\$1,651.00
Anderson, Scott	\$3,409.56	Donais, Christopher	\$1,816.75
Arsenault, Keith	\$29,310.03	Dorman, Kevin	\$900.00
Arsenault, Marie	\$49,758.37	Dorman, Melvin	\$1,000.00
Ausmus, Daniel	\$688.00	Duggan Jr., Herbert	\$13,785.21
Ayer, Richard	\$172.00	Dunivan, Kevin	\$3,156.85
Ayers, Brian	\$10,773.44	Durkan, Brianna	\$1,610.00
Ball, Justyna	\$6,251.00	Dustin, Brian	\$2,337.61
Barrett, Nicholas	\$273.00	Edwards, Clayton	\$141.90
Barrett, Teresa	\$31,532.51	Eisenthal, David	\$833.33
Barry, Johanna	\$60,255.23	Fontaine, Keith	\$152.16
Bassett, Rachael	\$1,852.94	Frank, Nicholas	\$3,651.98
Bastien, Joanne	\$119.00	Frew, Betty	\$18,644.81
Benson, Robert	\$8,808.52	Frew, Michael	\$1,600.00
Berard, Jesse	\$2,580.00	Frizzell Sr., John	\$800.00
Bigos, Alan	\$24,429.52	Fullam, Brandon	\$667.62
Boos, James	\$2,814.08	Fullam, Charles	\$344.00
Bordeau, Sharon	\$7,775.36	Garin, Mary	\$34.00
Borlikoski, Charlotte	\$34.00	Gaudet, Dillion	\$1,198.60
Brown, Marissa	\$6,839.29	Goodman, Philip	\$9,013.20
Brown, Trevor	\$68.00	Grabosky, John	\$1,825.07
Burns-Jackson, Mary	\$28,781.64	Green Jr., Richard	\$1,270.72
Careau, Lisa	\$23,952.00	Grimshaw, Carrie	\$2,950.40
Casey, Elsie	\$51.00	Haire, Carol	\$51.00
Cassavant, Duane	\$47,396.67	Hartung, Kara	\$25,183.31
Cassavant, Ryan	\$1,605.53	Higgins, Devon	\$97.00
Cassavant, Wesley	\$53,899.91	Higgins, Jane	\$540.00
Charron, Brian	\$3,082.55	Hilliker, Cody	\$711.16
Christakis, Margot	\$4,797.01	Horne, Randy	\$344.00
Churchey, David	\$1,720.00	Iwaniec, Eric	\$8,734.70
Ciejka, Joseph	\$2,963.47	Jankins, Shelby	\$458.25
Cook, William	\$199.64	Jankins, Thomas	\$302.25
Courtemanche, Elaine	\$3,336.00	Jansen, Ashton	\$324.27
Couture, John	\$1,053.78	Judycki, Kally	\$1,554.39
Daley, John	\$67,344.87	Kane, Alexandra	\$2,188.50
Daley, Ryan	\$1,204.00	Kennan Jr., Richard	\$40,578.72

King, William R.	\$34.00	Piscitelli, Matthew	\$344.00
Kosla, Roland	\$688.00	Plante, Lynda	\$150.00
Landry, Joseph	\$2,774.49	Puduski, Donald	\$623.90
Landry, Kathleen	\$51.00	Ramos, Felix	\$892.25
Laperle, Charles	\$101,746.37	Roberts, Teri	\$16,758.84
Lazarick III, Joseph	\$172.00	Romani, Christopher	\$1,892.00
Letendre, Matthew	\$57,923.56	Rudinski, Joshua	\$393.90
Letendre Jr., Dennis	\$344.00	Rust, James	\$6,182.35
Long, Christine	\$7,997.70	Sampson, Curtis	\$344.00
Long, Mark	\$1,066.67	Santos Jr., Daniel	\$5,456.86
Lupacchino, Patricia	\$1,548.28	Saria, Andrew	\$928.63
Lupacchino, Paul	\$12,819.84	Sauve, Geraldine	\$4,443.96
Lyons, Pasqualina	\$51.00	Searah, Dana	\$2,208.90
Mank, Tracey	\$1,115.05	Seeton, Nancy	\$34.00
Mansfield, William	\$1,929.82	Sefton, Michael	\$172.00
Marco, Carl	\$309.46	Shattuck, Leah	\$3,569.22
Marderosian, Fran	\$516.00	Simeone, Gary	\$9,473.06
Marino, Sean	\$344.00	Sokol, Laurie	\$34.00
Matczak, Christopher	\$688.00	Songy, John	\$344.00
Mawhinney, Eric	\$4,740.40	Spencer, Melody	\$806.39
McCall, Daniel	\$2,026.37	Spera, Robert	\$3,187.06
McElroy, Caitlyn	\$2,225.80	St. Denis, Norman	\$775.00
McNeaney, Jason	\$91.80	Swain, S. Patrick	\$71,294.74
Melanson, Tammi	\$32,846.82	Takorian, Holly	\$29,529.84
Merriam, Jesse	\$2,438.56	Taylor, Jeffrey	\$14,194.30
Millette, Gerald	\$344.00	Tebo, David	\$4,027.15
Mochi, Marie	\$4,642.58	Thibodeau, Chris	\$344.00
Mulliken, Susan	\$172.00	Thomasian, John	\$4,750.00
Muska, Katarina	\$262.15	Tivnan, John	\$34.00
Nadon Sr., Barry	\$3,864.09	Tivnan, Madelyn	\$919.30
Nadon Jr., Barry	\$1,600.00	Toupin, Robert	\$344.00
Norden, Cynthia	\$30,913.30	Valois, Armand	\$1,825.88
O'Brien, Misty	\$898.00	Veinot, Joan	\$1,209.00
O'Donnell, Mark	\$50,715.53	Vongratsamy, Nichole	\$500.00
O'Donnell Jr., C. Thomas	\$86,897.83	Walker, Peggy	\$43,089.46
O'Neill, John	\$2,000.00	Ward, Edwin	\$52,144.15
Orne, Robert	\$344.00	Waterman, Gregg	\$40,853.89
Paquette, Eleanore	\$34.00	Waugh, Patrick	\$172.00
Paquette, Jason	\$800.00	Wentzell, Lee Anne	\$1,916.00
Paquette, Lester	\$350.00	Whitehouse, Louise	\$34.00
Parker, Harold	\$68,376.48	Willey, Tammy	\$172.00
Pensinger, Jacob	\$42.84	Wrobel, Jean	\$21,169.86
Perrault, Kendall	\$1,096.50		
Pierce, David	\$8,210.33		
Pilch, Stephen	\$24,052.59		
			<u>\$1,577,247.42</u>

ASPARAGUS & FLOWER HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The annual festival was held on Saturday, May 21, 2011 on the Town Common from 10am – 4pm.

Co-sponsors of the event were the Quaboag Historical Society and the West Brookfield Historical Commission. The event attracted over 100 vendors, non-profit organizations, and exhibitors. Food vendors provided a great variety of food including many asparagus dishes, while growers offered asparagus roots and fresh asparagus.

The Cultural Council once again introduced a great variety of games. These, along with “Ed the Wizard,” the Spencer Savings Bank Train, and the Frog Jumping contest, provided great fun for the children. These were a great success, as were the pony rides available at no charge once again. This year, folks young and old, created visors decorated with artificial flowers. Country Bank volunteers assisted in this activity, which was enjoyed by all.

Dick Chase provided music for the event and Samantha Gillogly fiddled in the afternoon.

Melinda Czub coordinated the “*May Pole Dance*” with the Betty Gunderson Dance Studio, and Samantha provided violin music. Once again, a small scholarship was provided for a student at the dance studio.

We once again thank the Cultural Council, dancers, vendors, musicians, and the Highway Department. Thanks again to Rudy Arn for his portrayal of Diederick Leertouwer.

Committee Members in 2011 were: Kara Bigda, Melinda Czub, Amy Dugas, George and Elaine Hibbard, Dick and Barbara Rossman, Claudia Tourigny, and Joan Veinot.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Rossman

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Our town has 2,479 parcels:

- 1,382 Residential Improved Parcels
- 788 Vacant Parcels
- 92 Commercial/Industrial/Mixed Use Parcels
- 93 Chapter 61, 61A, 61B – Chapter Land Parcels
- 124 Personal Property

The value of all taxable property for Fiscal Year 2012 was \$370,324,052. Growth for the Fiscal Year tax rate is \$11.63 per thousand. The new tax rate reflects an accurate rate without last year's Quaboag Regional return of \$154,445.

The Assessors continue to implement the state law passed by the legislature (Chapter 59, Section 2D), which allows towns to issue supplemental real estate tax bills to property owners who make improvements to their property equal to more than fifty percent (50%) of the property's prior value. These bills are triggered by the issuance of occupancy permits and prorated according to the date on the occupancy permit.

The Assessors continue to work very closely with the Building Inspector because the Town requires building permits on almost all improvements made to your property. These building permits aid in correctly valuing a property's worth. Upon notification by the Building Inspector of permits issued, the Assessors will visit the property to verify and photograph it. Prior to our inspection, the property owner will receive a questionnaire from our office to be completed. This will assure us that our records are correct. ***We ask that anyone who receives one of these questionnaires take the time to complete it and return it to us.*** When these forms are not returned to our office we cannot make the necessary changes to ensure that the information we have on file is accurate.

ADDRESS CORRECTIONS

The bulk of information used in the Assessors' Office is indexed by address. ***It is essential that you inform our office of any changes in your address as soon as the change occurs.*** It certainly will help us to serve you more efficiently and prevent the necessity of duplicate mailings at an added cost to the taxpayer.

In addition, if a property owner has a Post Office Box number, it is imperative that we have this for our records. The Post Office in West Brookfield will ***not*** deliver mail without the correct Post Office Box number. If you are not sure that we have your box number on file, please contact this office for verification.

MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE TAX BILLS

Many people come to our office with questions regarding their Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Bills. The Registry of Motor Vehicles sends computerized data to all towns and the bills are then printed and mailed from the Tax Collector's Office. The information you receive on your bill is based on data the Registry of Motor Vehicles has in their files for any calendar year beginning January 1st. Please pay particular attention to the ***“Garaging Location”*** on your insurance form. If you have any changes in this location or in any other information, you must notify the Registry of Motor Vehicles so that your license, registration, and Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Bills are correct. This also ensures that you receive a bill at your correct address.

In addition, if you have sold a motor vehicle during the year, you may apply for an abatement of your excise bill by completing an application and providing our office with proof of sale, as well as a copy of the Plate Return Receipt, or new registration, if you transferred your license plates.

Our door is always open, and we welcome any comments or questions. We are proud to provide a very personalized service to you, and enjoy the opportunity to meet with many of you throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
William Mansfield, Chairman
Kevin Dorman
Nicole Vongratsamy
Elisabeth DiMaio, Secretary

BOARD OF HEALTH

During the past year, the Board of Health has generated approximately \$12,212.⁰⁰ through various required permit fees. The fees are as follows:

Septic Permit	\$200. ⁰⁰	Perc Test	\$150. ⁰⁰
Septic Installers	\$50. ⁰⁰	Septic Haulers	\$50. ⁰⁰
Trash Haulers	\$50. ⁰⁰	Retail Food	\$50. ⁰⁰
Food Service	\$50. ⁰⁰	Food Catering	\$50. ⁰⁰
Milk Store	\$10. ⁰⁰	Body Art	\$180. ⁰⁰
Tanning	\$15. ⁰⁰	Outdoor Boilers	\$75. ⁰⁰
1-Day Food Permit	\$10. ⁰⁰	Farmer's Market	\$35. ⁰⁰
		(includes Asparagus Festival)	

The Board of Health issued the following permits:

Perc Permits	9	Septic Permits	9
Food Permits	36	Milk Permits	12
Tanning Permits	2	Septic Installer Permits	10
Campground Permits	2	Mobile Home Park Permit	1
Pool Permits	2	Septage Hauling Permits	3
Trash Hauling Permits	6	Outdoor Wood Boilers	3
Bathing Beach Permits	2	Farmer's Market/Seasonal	24
		Food Permits	

The West Brookfield Board of Health contracts its medical services with Harrington Hospital.

The Town of West Brookfield has a *Low Interest Loan Program* for the repair of septic systems. Contact the Administrative Assistant for further information.

Many hours have been devoted to studying the issues that could lead to *the dredging of the North Cove of Lake Wickaboag*. Through many generous donations, we are several steps closer to our goal. The testing phase is complete. Town officials and representatives of the Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association have been working with Apex Incorporated so that the permitting, disposal and financing phases are about to begin. See the Lake Wickaboag Preservation Report for more information.

Hazardous Waste Day is once a year in September at the North Brookfield Transfer Station. **Latex paint is NOT accepted. Dry the latex paint in the can with a mix (bought at any hardware store) and dispose of it with the normal trash.**

The Board of Health wishes to remind all residents that it meets on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays** of each month **at 7:00 pm.** in the West Brookfield Town Hall, Room LL4. The public is invited to attend.

The Board of Health telephone number is 508-867-1421 ext. 310. Office hours are:

Monday 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Tuesday through Thursday 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Tuesday evening 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Title V Agent – John Thomasian
Health Agents – Joanne Petterson-Bernier and Earl Bernier
Administrative Assistant – Sarah J. Allen
Clerk – Virginia Allen

Respectfully submitted,
Melvin Dorman, Chairman
Jason Paquette
John Frizzell

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Information for the year ending December 31, 2011 is as follows:

TOTAL POPULATION	3,194
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VOTER REGISTRATION

American Independent	2
Democrat	569
Green Party USA	1
Green-Rainbow	3
Inter. 3 rd Party	2
Libertarian	10
Republican	357
Unenrolled	1,468
Working Families	1

VOTER TOTAL	2,413
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Respectfully submitted,

Sarah J. Allen
Jane Dolan
Madelyn Tivnan

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

As always, our Board placed priority on the effectiveness of financial management of the Town. This was accomplished while attempting to maintain or improve the standing portfolio of essential municipal services.

COMMUNITY:

Our Board allowed the Farmer's Market to open on May 25, 2011 with a start time of 3:00pm and end time of 6:30pm.

We participated in the Town of Ware's parade by riding in Barry Nadon's horse and carriage.

At the request of the Legion, we purchased and installed a "*Freedom Way*" sign at the beginning of the American Legion's driveway.

Noting complaints about the condition of the current playground, we asked the Recreation Commission to obtain quotes to replace the residential play set with a commercial set.

At the request of Veterans Service Officer, S. Patrick Swain, we created a "*Veterans' Dinner Donations Account.*" Receiving many generous donations, VSO Swain held a pot roast dinner at the Salem Cross Inn honoring approximately 245 veterans and guests.

CONTRACTS:

Our Board voted to adopt the following statutes: MGL c40, s4J – Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and MGL c48, s59A – Statewide Fire Mutual Aid Agreement and a Mutual Aid "Opt In" for Public Works; MGL c40 ss4j and 4k.

We approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with New Braintree Dispatch Center and awarded the RFP for the Fire & Police Spatial Needs Study to Caolo & Bieniek Associates, Incorporated.

We accepted the Tucker Road (East and West) Stewardship Plans, as submitted by the Tree Warden, Jim DiMaio, and permitted the Chairman to execute a Cooperative Service Agreement with the USDA for \$2,750 for beaver control.

The Town received notice from Charter that the Town's Cable Contract will expire on January 19, 2014.

The Town of Brookfield wrote our Board asking if the Town would like to share use of their public safety boat. The Town of Brookfield requested a certificate of insurance as additionally insured. Our Board agreed, after receiving clearance from the Town's insurance and legal counsel.

We executed an Inter Municipal Agreement (IMA) for Human Resources with Brookfield, North Brookfield, and Warren.

FINANCES:

Our Board voted to pay 50% (Town's share: \$1,147.50) of the cost associated with fire protection for the Historical Commission rental building, the old rail station.

Michael Ohl, of Comprehensive Environmental Inc., provided our Board with an overview of the MassWorks Infrastructure Program. Highway Superintendent Daley informed the Board that he would be applying for a grant to complete Central Street and Front Street to Milk Street. Engineering and construction will be funded 100% should the grant be received. The grant application is due into the State the first week of September.

Town Treasurer, Keith Arsenault, informed our Board that Sheehan Group had purchased Quaboag on the Common on May 1, 2011, and that they are a for-profit company. As a result, the Assessors will be having a professional assessment done to create a tax base for the Group. Chapter 59 discusses non-profit to profit status. There will be pro-forma taxes for May and June, agreed upon taxation for July through January, and then taxation based on the professional assessment.

Chairman, Barry Nadon, on behalf of the 350th Committee, presented checks to the Common Committee, Recreation Commission, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Council on Aging with proceeds from various events conducted during the course of the year-long Anniversary Celebration of the Town.

We chose to take small claims action against four (4) responsible parties for outstanding hazmat bills.

Supt. Daley and Paul Guertin, Coler & Colantonio Inc., answered questions relating to the proposed Route 9 Project (resurfacing & related work on Route 9 from the Ware town line to Pierce Road). Supt. Daley requested \$126,007 be funded at the Special Town Meeting (STM) which would provide for engineering services for the initial 25% design. Supt. Daley told the Board that the engineering costs would be \$340,308 which includes the \$126,007. Engineering costs are the responsibility of the Town and the TIP Grant will cover construction costs. Our Board agreed to provide an article on the upcoming Special Town Meeting Warrant to fund \$126,007 out of the General Stabilization Account.

We decided to use \$2,000 from the Consultant Account to pay Bill Scanlon, CMRPC, to create solar guidelines for the Town.

Our Board voted to have a single tax rate for FY13.

LIQUOR LICENSES:

Tom Long, Joan Leslie, and Joe Messier presented our Board with a Change of Manager application for the American Legion. Noting no objections, our Board voted to approve the request.

Our Board voted to permit the Tavern to have a One (1) Day Outdoor Liquor License for August 6th.

POLICY:

Taylor Caswell and Peter Owens briefed the Board about a potential solar farm on Route 9. Both stated that they were in negotiations with Ray Samek to purchase a large tract of land off of Route 9. Mr. Caswell stated that the LLC would be willing to negotiate with the Town on taxation for trade for reduced electrical KW purchases from the LLC. Both stated that this was simply a “meet & greet” and that they would be interacting with the various required Boards for permits/licensing.

Upon recommendation from Jeff Taylor, Building Inspector, our Board voted to set the following Solar Fees in place effective immediately: *Commercial Solar Generation - \$5.00 per thousand of the project value*

STAFFING:

Our Board promoted David Tebo to the position of Fire Lieutenant and appointed Daniel McCall and Andrew Sarja as new Recruit Firefighters.

We appointed Duane Cassavant as interim Highway Foreman, which included his now \$80 per pay period stipend into his base pay, retroactive to February 8, 2011.

We accepted Lisa Careau's resignation as Library Director, and Peggy Walker's retirement, letter effective September 30, 2011, from the Assessor's office, both with regret.

We appointed Keith Arsenault to the Planning Board and Ms. Carrie Grimshaw as Director of the Merriam-Gilbert Public Library.

We accepted the resignation of Lynda D. Plante as Moderator, with deep regret. (Ms. Plante passed away shortly after her resignation. The Town will miss her expertise and commitment to community.)

TOWN FLEET:

Upon recommendation by the Highway Superintendent, we decided to trade in the backhoe to Schmidt Equipment for \$9,000.

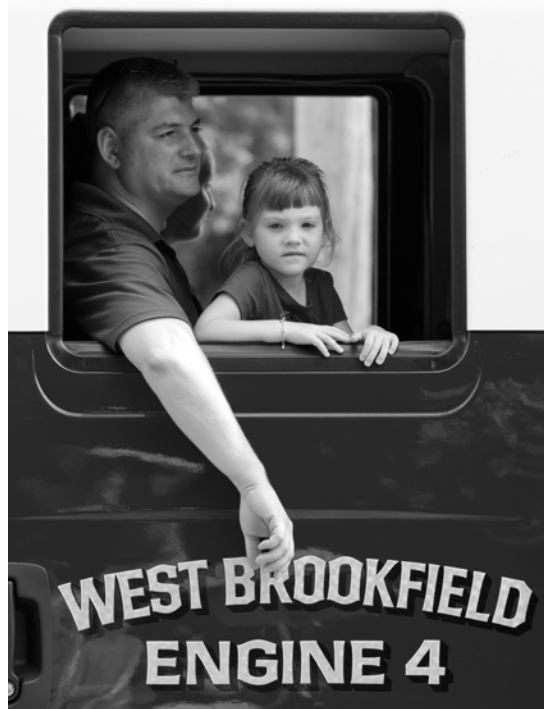
Our Board approved the following items to be purchased out of the Town's Fleet Account:

- A new cruiser for the Police Department
- A sidewalk plow/blower in the amount of \$73,829.50 for the Highway Dept.
- Three (3) video cameras for the police cruisers

Our Board donated the Town's 2008 Ford Crown Victoria to the UMass Memorial Campus Police. Police Chief C. Thomas O'Donnell executed the title and turned the keys over to Deputy Chief Ted Carlson. Deputy Chief Carlson thanked our Board and the Town for its generous donation.

We appreciate and thank all town employees and all volunteers for their part in making West Brookfield such a great place to live. It is an honor and a privilege for the three of us to service our town and its citizens.

Respectfully submitted,
Barry J. Nadon, Jr.
Mike Frew
Mark Long



Selectman Mark Long and daughter Abby at the Ware 250th Anniversary Parade

BURIAL GROUND COMMISSION

The Board of Cemetery Commissioners consists of John Bartlett, Marjorie Reim, and Kevin Roberts.

The Cemetery Commissioners have the oversight of three separate cemeteries: the Old Indian Cemetery on Cottage Street, the Methodist Cemetery on Lyons Road, and the Pine Grove Cemetery on Church Street. These

cemetery grounds and buildings have been maintained by the commissions' selected caretaker, Alan Bigos. Alan resigned his position this past winter and we wish to take this opportunity to thank him for his dedication and numerous years of service.

The town residents and commission have the following concerns due to a reduced budget, which has continued to be hampered by restricted budgetary funding:

- Repair of fencing surrounding cemetery grounds, specifically fencing around the Pine Grove Cemetery
- Purchase of a columbarium
- Purchase of additional burial grounds

The Cemetery Commission wishes to thank those who have cared for the lots of their loved ones.

As a reminder: Out of respect for our deceased, ***dogs are not allowed at any time*** on cemetery grounds. Please inform the West Brookfield Police Department if you witness any vandalism or suspicious activity.

We had fourteen (14) burials in Pine Grove during 2011.

From West Brookfield

Lorraine Dame

Oliver Hill

Louise Gunderson

Mary Woodward

Out of Town

Wendell Bishop	Riverside, CA
Eunice Brodeur	Springfield, MA
Joseph Broughton	Charlotte, NC
Estalene Buzzell	Charlton, MA
Bernice Gagne	Hampden, MA
Alfred Hapgood	Sturbridge, MA
Edward Risley	Alexandria, VA
Harold Smith	Florida
Harry Wright	Palm Beach, FL
Jean Wright	Palm Beach, FL

Respectfully submitted,

John Bartlett, Chairman
Marjorie Reim
Kevin Roberts

COMMON COMMITTEE

The Town Common once again has enjoyed a busy and successful year. The Asparagus Festival started off the year with record-breaking crowds. The 46th Annual Congregational Church tag sale drew large numbers of vendors and shoppers. The July 4th bonfire and band concert at the Helen Shackley Memorial Bandstand grows in popularity and attendance each year. The weekly summer concerts under the direction of the new Bandstand Committee provided enjoyable evenings of music and dance.

A classic and modified car show to benefit the Jimmy Fund also took place on the common this past summer. The Farmer's Market continues to draw shoppers looking to purchase produce, meats, and baked goods produced by local farms and vendors. The annual White Christmas celebration and tree lighting ceremony capped off the year's events. A special thank you goes to Kip's Tree Farm for donating Christmas trees to decorate the bandstand.

We would like to extend a special thank you to Al Bigos for his many years of loyal service in maintaining our town's common. We would also like to thank Tree Warden, Jim DiMaio, and Clay Takorian for their work in salvaging the many trees damaged in the October storm.

It has been our pleasure to serve our community as members of the West Brookfield Common Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Richard, Chairman
Sarah Allen, Treasurer
Betty DiMaio, Secretary

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

During the year, the Conservation Commission was involved in numerous permits, site visits, and meetings regarding the enforcement of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act. We held public hearings for four (4) *Notices of Intent* and four (4) *Requests for Determination*.

We issued three (3) *Certificates of Compliance* and two (2) extension permits.

Please visit our website at <http://wbrookfieldma.com>. All forms as well as instructions for completing them are located at this site and can be downloaded for your convenience. Minutes of our meetings can be viewed here.

The Conservation Commission wishes to remind all property owners that Massachusetts General Law states that any work proposed within 100 feet of any wetland and 200 feet from any rivers or streams requires a filing of a *Request for Determination of Applicability*.

An Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program is also in place to assist and encourage the retention of the Commonwealth's best farmland. The program is a permanent solution for maintaining an agricultural land base for local food production. Chapter 61 and 61A provide tax relief for land in agricultural production, forestry, or recreation. Any interested landowners should contact the Commission for more information.

The Conservation Commission meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Lower Level Conservation Office in the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon DeWolf, Chair
Richard Provencher
Brian Silva
Jesse Serrano
Christine M. Long, Secretary
Eric Tunley
James Talvy

COUNCIL ON AGING

We would like to thank the Council on Aging for their continued support and dedication to the Senior Center and our senior citizens. We thank, once again, all our volunteers who have spent many hours setting up and cleaning up for all the special programs during the day, nights, and weekends.

In the year 2011 we have introduced several new programs and expanded our “after hours” activities. Our Saturday breakfasts and cookouts have been well attended and enjoyed by many. We hosted a successful Fall Festival, and took pleasure in having a White Christmas Open House.

We are very grateful for our *Friends of the Council* and the *Irving England and Jane England Charitable Trust Grant* to purchase kitchen equipment. In addition, we are thankful to all who have donated items from our wish list in the *Silverstreak Newsletter* (including paper napkins, paper plates, small kitchen items, tablecloths, large cans of coffee, etc.).

We continue to provide information and referral, outreach, reassurance calls, and other individual services that help seniors and their families cope with problems related to aging. The Senior Center continues to offer the Medicar Program (medical transportation) and several clinics - including blood pressure, flu clinic, cholesterol screening, fuel assistance, Veterans’ Agent, SHINE, AARP Tax Assistance, and other medical screenings.

The mission of the Council on Aging of the West Brookfield Senior Center is to enhance the lives of our senior citizens by providing information, referral services, and opportunities for socialization and recreation.

We would like to thank the Selectmen, Finance Committee, and the community for your continued support and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Norden, Director
Constance Pratt, COA Chair

EARTH REMOVAL BOARD

Earth Material Excavation Requiring a Permit – More than 500 cubic yards of soil excavated in any one year. Excavation incidental to the construction of buildings or other accessory uses and expansions may be exempt, provided that the quantity of materials removed shall not exceed that displaced by the portion of the building or accessory use below grade, and all required permits by the West Brookfield Bylaws and/or Zoning Bylaws have been issued. Other exceptions are: excavation in the course of customary agricultural use of land for a farm, garden or nursery; excavation of material subject to a license issued under M.G.L. Chapter 40 Subsection 21 (7); excavation in compliance with the specific requirements of an approved subdivision plan; and excavation in the normal use of a cemetery.

Earth Material includes soil, sand, gravel, stones, topsoil, peat, muck, loam, bedrock, or other earth materials from any land in the town.

The Earth Removal Board continues to manage two (2) active permits relative to earth material excavation under Section XII Section 2 of the Town's General Bylaws.

The Earth Removal Board lost a very knowledgeable member of its Board when Dick Aube passed away. His insight and friendship will be missed by all of the remaining members of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Paquette (Health), Chairman

Bob Lipovsky (Planning)

Mike Frew (Selectmen)

Gordon DeWolf (Conservation)

Vacant (Zoning)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The mission of emergency management is to assist the public and governmental agencies in the event of an emergency or natural disaster. 2011 proved to be a year of repeated natural disasters. From the snowstorms at the beginning of the year, to tropical storm Irene, and of course the October snowstorm, the town's capacity to respond was tested. The October snowstorm was also the

first test of the regional shelter located at Quaboag Regional Middle High School. While a relatively small number of people stayed overnight, a large number of people availed themselves of hot meals and showers.

The regional shelter is run by the Warren Emergency Management office and staffed with volunteers from the Community Emergency Response Team. The CERT team, through the emergency management office, provides a wide range of assistance to public safety agencies from shelter operations, to assisting at fire scenes and even light search and rescue.

Our local team is comprised of volunteers from Warren and West Brookfield. The team meets at the Quaboag Regional Middle High School. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact me at the police department at 508-867-1405 or by email, ctodonnell@wbrookfield.com.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Thomas O'Donnell
Director of Emergency Management

FIRE DEPARTMENT

During 2011 the West Brookfield Fire Department responded to 155 emergency calls as follows:

3 Structure Fires	8 Smoke/Fire Investigations
1 Arson Fire	35 Fire Alarms
1 Chimney Fires	8 Carbon Monoxides
4 Brush Fires	1 Vehicle Fire
2 Brush Permits out of control	6 Electrical/Pole Fires
5 Appliance Fires	2 Smell of Gas
32 Motor Vehicle Accidents	1 Fire (other)
2 Building Collapses	1 Dumpster Fire
1 Suspicious Package	12 Assist a Citizen
4 Illegal Burns	7 Tactical Rescues
3 Hazmat (other than the cleanup from Motor Vehicle Accidents)	3 Natural Disasters/Storm Standby
5 Assist other Town Agencies	

Mutual Aid was given ten (10) times to the following Towns:

1 Ware	1 New Braintree
1 Warren	1 Brookfield
2 North Brookfield	2 Brimfield
1 Monson	1 East Brookfield

We received Mutual Aid once in 2011 from neighboring communities (North Brookfield).

In addition to Fire Suppression duties, the Department conducts numerous Safety and Code Compliance Inspections. We also issue permits under various state required programs. These required inspections and issuance of permits are performed primarily by Deputy

Chief Benson, assisted by myself. The Department conducted ninety-four (94) Inspections consisting of the following:

Inspect the Installations of:

OIL AND GAS BURNERS
OIL TANKS AND PROPANE TANKS

Inspection of:

FUEL TANK SAFETY
SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS
COMMERCIAL SPRINKLER SYSTEMS
STATE MANDATED HEALTH CARE FACILITY
LIQUOR LICENSE BUILDING SAFETY
ELEVATOR SAFETY
TOWN OWNED SPRINKLER SYSTEM
UNDER GROUND TANK REMOVALS

Permits Issued for:

BLASTING
BON-FIRE

Thank you, Deputy Chief Benson, for your dedication and commitment to the Safety and Code Compliance Unit of our Department.

For more permit requirements and changes to the Smoke Detector and Carbon Monoxide laws and regulations please go to www.mass.gov/dfs then click on “*Division of Fire Safety*” and you will find the latest Fire Regulations and Code Requirements.

Our other permit process, that most Firefighters take part in, is issuing of brush Burning Permits. In 2011, 172 Burning Permits were issued. We attribute the increase of permits issued to natural disaster, such as the tornado. The accumulation of wooded debris adds to the fire danger year after year. We in the fire service brace for a

catastrophic event. As a priority our tactics will focus on preserving Firefighters' lives and protecting homes from progressive heavily fueled brush fires. *Please tend to your campfire, never turn your back on it, and never leave it alone. More importantly, please, when extinguishing it, make sure it is completely out.* Our brush fire and out of control permits totaled two (2) for the year, down seven (7) from last year. We continue to hope this low number is from conscientious residents taking the necessary precautions when burning brush.

Starting in 2010, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) took over the control of outdoor burning activities and dictates when we can or cannot burn brush during the brush-burning season. The ability to burn is governed by the daily air quality that disperses smoke to the atmosphere. The ability to dissipate smoke effects air quality for individuals with breathing difficulties. The DEP delegates the responsibility to the Fire Chief, and/or his designee, to monitor and issue orders for extinguishment of any fire that causes a compromise to air quality to another person, include a cooking fire. I would like to ask everyone to be considerate of your neighbor when lighting outdoor cooking or recreational campfires and have consideration for those who enjoy this controlled campfire activity. Understand that if you are requested to extinguish your fire, you are being requested to do so under these delegated orders from the DEP.

Another responsibility is Fire Prevention. The Fire Department again was fortunate to apply for and obtain, for the 15th year, the S.A.F.E. (Students Awareness of Fire Education) Grant. This program, coordinated within the school system, provides Fire and Life safety messages during the school year. Fire personnel visit the school

starting in or around January and ending at the conclusion of the school year. We provide Fire Safety tips that we hope are brought home and shared with the entire family.

In addition to Fire Safety messages, this program teaches CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) to the entire 5th Grade. CPR Instructors from the Fire Department, with supplies given for free to the entire class from the West Brookfield Rescue Squad, provide this instruction. This is a great addition to the safety of our community. Over fifty (50) children have been trained and are able to perform CPR when a Cardiac Arrest emergency arises. Our hats are off to the 5th grade, Great Job! We would like to *thank* Principal Colleen Mucha for her cooperation and support to our Fire Prevention efforts; and the 5th Grade teachers, Mr. Ryan Hibbard and Mrs. Karen Oliveira, for allowing us time in their classrooms and for the support they give in assisting with the teaching of our important safety messages.

Training continues to become more demanding, with the introduction of new technologies, additional fire codes and regulations, and training new recruits. It becomes a never-ending upgrade. Our Training Officer, Scott Anderson, heads up this task and does a great job and I again thank him for his diligent efforts in organizing monthly trainings and helping the Operational Officers, Lieutenant Joe Landry and Lieutenant David Tebo, in keeping all Firefighters abreast of the latest techniques and hazards we will face. I thank those officers as well for their important work in assisting the Training Lieutenant and myself with the operations of the Department.

I would also like to acknowledge Assistant Chief Dan Santos for his assistance in the operational duties and administration of the Department. Assistant Chief Santos provides Command presence on emergency scenes, and maintains assurance that all Firefighters are ready for the call. He oversees that all station equipment is maintained mission ready. I can count on him for any assistance needed to keep the Department ready for duty. *Thank you, Assistant Chief Santos!*

We have been working diligently to restructure budget needs for the Department, spreading out required costs, such as flow tests of self contained breathing apparatus that Firefighter's lives depend on; and replacement of the max 15-year life span cylinders of the SCBA. Each cylinder can cost upwards of \$1,500. We are currently working hard with the Selectmen and Finance Committee to spread out purchases in order to provide the funding necessary to meet today's demands, and, at the same time, stabilize the budget. The Fire Department has been maintaining our older fleet of vehicles and putting off replacements of those trucks by providing good maintenance programs. I will need your continued support (for which I thank you in advance) to assist us in providing the necessary safety equipment and tools to the Firefighters in order to do the job. Each Firefighter deserves my diligence in providing this much needed safety equipment, and I know I can count on you to help provide it.

In 2011, the Department has seen many joys. We started the first official Jr. Firefighter program. Mr. Cody Hilliker has been appointed as our first official Jr. Firefighter and he has proven to be a huge benefit to the Department. Cody, at the time of my writing this report,

has started in the District 7 Recruit training, joining Recruit Firefighter Clayton Edwards and Firefighter Dan McCall in these studies. Over 300 hours of dedicated training will be spent by each of these Firefighters in expanding their knowledge of firefighting skills to better serve their department and community. All three are holding a higher than class average and represent the department with pride and honor. GREAT JOB, I appreciate all your efforts. Keep up the good work.

We have also appointed an additional Jr. Firefighter, Ashley Anderson (daughter of our Training Officer Lieutenant Scott Anderson, granddaughter of the late retired Deputy Chief William Anderson Sr., and niece of retired Firefighter William Anderson Jr.). With two generations of experience behind her, Ashley has been a great addition to the department. She has been very active with training and has developed the Fire Department Webpage. With her dedication and drive to excel in the Fire Service, Ashley has been accepted to the Fire Science Program at Anna Maria College. Good luck with your continued studies, Ashley, we know you will do well.

***A reminder to our community that the Fire Department is a
Call Volunteer Department
all duties are performed on this basis.***

The Fire Department is a department many times not thought about until needed. The men and women of the Department are the true reason everyone can rest at night knowing that, if the call arises and an emergency strikes, these individuals are on call and ready to respond. I take much pride in saying I lead one of the most dedicated groups of Firemen in the Fire Service. I *thank* the officers for their assistance in leading the Department, and thank each Firefighter for their service.

I thank them for their dedication, commitment to serve, and willingness to risk the ultimate sacrifice for the safety of their neighbor, family, or friend!

Your 2011 Fire Department members are as follows:

Chief Paul Lupacchino
Deputy Chief Robert Benson
Assistant Chief Daniel Santos
Lieutenant Joe Landry
Lieutenant David Tebo
Training Lieutenant Scott Anderson
Firefighter Brian Charron
Firefighter Brian Dustin
Firefighter Nicholas Frank
Firefighter Brandon Fullum
Firefighter Patricia Lupacchino
Firefighter Jason McNeany
Firefighter Dan McCall
Firefighter Jessie Merriam
Firefighter Dana Searah
Recruit Firefighter Andrew Sarja
Recruit Firefighter Clayton Edwards
Jr. Firefighter Ashley Anderson
Jr. Firefighter Cody Hilliker
Firefighter William Gray (leave of absence)
Firefighter Nick Minor (leave of absence for the Navy)
Recruit Firefighter Aston Jansen (resigned, job demands)

I would also like to say, if there are any men and women from our community who feel they possess the desire, dedication, commitment to serve, and are physically fit to perform firefighting duties and are interested in joining our dedicated department – please contact us at (508) 867-1408. Leave a message and we will get back to you. You can also come to the station on any Monday night. We are there, and one of the Fire Officers or Firefighters would gladly talk over this opportunity with you. We need you! We need your help!

I would like to say *thank you* to all the Departments that supply direct assistance when called upon, especially the Rescue Squad, Police Department, also the Highway and Water Departments, The Central Dispatch Center, and all other departments who assist us in getting our job done daily and during emergencies.

We thank our families, who put up with us bolting out the door, and their willingness to be there upon our return, sharing us with the community, and supporting us in our calling.

In closing, I would like to *thank* the Selectmen, Finance Committee, and all the Town Departments for the support they have extended to the Fire Department. I would like to *thank* the community for their support, but most of all I would like to thank the Firefighters of the West Brookfield Fire Department who stand behind me with unwavering support, dedication, and confidence in this most honorable position in the Fire Service as Chief. I will represent you, protect you, and lead you with honor. I *thank you* for the opportunity to serve you as your Chief. The Town of West Brookfield remains safe because of you!

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Lupacchino, Fire Chief

GAS/PLUMBING INSPECTOR

The following is a compilation of Gas and Plumbing Inspections performed during 2011:

Gas Inspections

Boilers	10	Tests	6
Cook Stoves	14	Unit Heaters	2
Direct Vent Heaters	7	Unvented Room Heater	1
Dryers	4	Water Heaters	11
Furnaces	10	Vent Face Heater	1
Generators	2	Gas Lines	4
Roof Top Unit	1		

Plumbing Inspections

Bathtubs	16	Toilets	95
Dishwashers	9	Washing Machine Conn.	16
Floor/Area Drain	1	Water Heater – all types	16
Kitchen Sinks	14	Water Piping	12
Lavatories	46	Backflow Prevention	7
Shower Stalls	13	Hand Wash Sinks	6
Service/Mop Sinks	8	Ejector Pump	1

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Ciejka, Gas & Plumbing Inspector
Edward Kent, Assistant Inspector

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

2011 started with a five (5) week period of extremely intense winter weather. There was little time to breathe between systems. There was near record snowfall in January, and little melting, so massive snow depths accrued. There was little available room to push snow. We had to balance our time between plowing, sanding, and removing snow from downtown areas, pushing back piles of snow at intersections, and trying to open up roadways for two-lane traffic; not to mention maintenance on all the equipment. During the course of the winter, it became quite clear that many of the West Brookfield roads were not built for this type of winter. Rocks, ledge, trees, and high shoulders are too close to the roads' edges, leaving no room to push snow back. Therefore, when we are re-constructing roadways, it is very important that we design the new roads with enough room for snow removal. In summary of the winter, we had fourteen (14) snow storms that required sanding and plowing and seven (7) times when trucks were mobilized for sanding all roadways, as well as numerous times that we spot sanded. I was very happy with the performance and teamwork of both full and part time employees during this difficult winter.

In the spring, we spent five (5) weeks sweeping sidewalks and roadways throughout the town. We also spent four (4) weeks cutting roadside brush, trees, and limbs. This work is ongoing, and we hope to make progress each year to make our roadsides safer. All of the catch basins and drop inlets were cleaned. This work was sub-contracted out. Many swales and shoulders have been opened. This is something that has been neglected in

past years, and we hope to get back on track soon. It is very important to keep the water off the roadways when possible.

The towns of West Brookfield, East Brookfield, Brookfield, Warren, and Brimfield have been working on a Highway Department Regionalization Program. This will allow the Highway Departments to share equipment and resources and improve the quality of service, as well as reduce the cost of those services. The Highway Superintendents have been meeting monthly, working on the structure of the regionalized concept and have identified many projects that can save the towns money. Some are as follows:

- Purchase of a sign machine to make street and road signs in house. Cost savings 40%
- Sharing of equipment – for example:
West Brookfield could use East Brookfield's catch basin cleaner eliminating the sub-contract we currently use. East Brookfield could use West Brookfield's line painting equipment.
- Regionalized purchasing of goods and services – for example:
Traffic paint – 5+ gallons/\$11.40 -vs. - 100+ gallons/\$10.80
Sign posts – 1 - 49/\$22.60 -vs. - 100+/\$18.40
Line painting – 100,000 ft/.33¢ per ft -vs. - 100,000+ ft/.30¢ per ft

We have already started implementing some of these concepts. We hope that in FY13 we will have a more formalized regional agreement.

During the summer and early fall, our main focus was our Road Project List. The following work has been completed:

Chapter 90 Projects

Wigwam Road – Phase II remaining ~ 1.5 miles to Route 67. Move remaining telephone poles, tree removal, box widen, straighten, drainage improvements, reclaim and pave 2-1/2” of binder. Cost \$260,000.

Wheeler Road – Finish Pave 1-1/2” topcoat and back up shoulders. Cost \$16,000.

Town Maintenance Projects

Funded at the fall Town Meeting \$150,000 plus \$30,000 from Road Reconstruction – Total \$180,000.

Long Hill Road – From the river bridge to the top of the hill by Davis Road .67 miles. Clean shoulders, shim pave bad areas, crack seal and chip seal.

Davis Road – .83 miles. Clean shoulders, shim pave bad areas, crack seal and chip seal.

Richardson Road – .5 miles. Clean swales and culverts, crack seal and chip seal.

Pierce Road – 1.67 miles. Crack seal.

Hunt Road – .97 miles. Clean shoulders, drainage improvements, shim pave bad areas, crack seal and chip seal.

Old West Brookfield Road – .27 miles. Crack seal and chip seal.

Old Warren Road – .27 miles. Clean all shoulders and swales, shim pave bad areas, crack seal and chip seal.

Foster Hill Road – 1.44 miles. Crack seal.

Central Street – .49 miles. Crack seal.

Ware Street – .49 miles. Crack seal.

Wickaboag Valley Road Sidewalk Repair – Crack seal berm joint to reduce berm separation.

These repairs cover a total of 7.7 miles costing \$180,000 and will extend the life of these roads for 7 – 10 years. If this work was not done, they would fall into the reconstruction classification. The current average cost to reconstruct these types of roads is \$300,000 per mile. We must try to save the roadways before they deteriorate to the point where total reconstruction is required.

In the fall all of the equipment was serviced and inspected for preparation for the winter months. We have implemented a very aggressive maintenance schedule to maximize the life expectancy of each piece of equipment.

On October 30th, we encountered an early Nor'easter that caused severe tree damage and power outages. The Highway Department, working with several local contractors, removed over 3,500 dangerous hangers. West Brookfield Highway's storm clean up has been accomplished by managing and performing clean-up operations in house, at a fraction of the cost of using AshBritt Inc., which is the lone company on the state bid list for debris clean up. At this point in time, I believe we have completed about 95% of the work. The main concern is hanging branches. We are in the process of filing paperwork with FEMA.

Next year we will finish Wigwam Road. This will exhaust our current Chapter 90 funds that are available. I am currently working on a 10-year Road Project List with the Road Project Committee and the Road Commissioners. I hope to formalize this list, including a projected schedule, soon. It will be posted on the Highway Department website.

I would like to express my gratitude to the residents of West Brookfield, the Board of Selectmen, and various other Town Departments' employees for their continued support. I would like to thank all of the Highway Department employees for their dependability under normal working conditions and their commitment and dedication during the emergencies that have arisen during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

James Daley, Highway Superintendent

DROP-OFF CENTER

Wigwam Road

Hours of operation: **Wednesday: 9:00am to 4:00pm**
Saturday: 9:00am to 4:00pm

THE DROP-OFF CENTER IS FOR RESIDENTIAL USE ONLY. RULES AND REGULATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS MARKET FLUCTUATES

TVs 27" and under	\$ 5.00	TVs over 27"	\$10.00
Radios	\$ 5.00	Stereos	\$ 5.00
VCRs	\$ 5.00		
Microwaves	\$ 5.00	Refrigerators	\$20.00
Stoves	\$20.00	Dishwashers	\$15.00
Washers	\$20.00	Dryers	\$20.00
Water coolers	\$10.00	Air Conditioners	\$20.00
Computers	\$ 5.00	Monitors	\$ 5.00
Keyboards	\$ 5.00	Copiers	\$ 5.00
Printers	\$ 5.00		
Tires with rims	\$ 5.00	Tires no rims	\$ 3.00
Used Motor Oil	Free	Scrap Metal	Free
Anti- Freeze	Free		
Brush	No larger than 3-inch diameter by 4-feet lengths		Free
Leaves/Grass Clippings	No bags, please		Free
Propane Tanks			\$ 5.00

***Batteries must have caps attached.
Any motor must have fluids drained.***

The following items will be priced accordingly by the attendant:

Large Console TVs * Large Propane Tanks *
Commercial or Truck Tires.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Historical Commission met monthly, January to June and September to December in the Commission Office, Room 201 in the Town Hall.

This year, eligibility and criteria for a new West Brookfield Historical Commission Scholarship were established. Trevor Brown was the recipient of this \$2,000 scholarship.

In May, the Commission co-sponsored and participated in the "*Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival*" on the common.

In the spring, the Commission funded the Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) "*History on the Road*" program for the 5th grade at the West Brookfield Elementary School. A field trip to OSV was also funded for the 3rd grade.

To commemorate the start of the Civil War 150 years ago, an encampment by the Mass. 15th Regiment re-enactors was sponsored in June. Also provided were horse and wagon rides around the common. In the fall, "*Stories from my Aunts*" was co-sponsored with the Friends of the Library. "*Drums in the Civil War*" was also sponsored at the Library.

Other activities during the year included:

- the updating of the commission Website (www.westbrookfield.org);
- the purchase of 50 reduced admission tickets to Old Sturbridge Village. These are available for residents at the Library;
- the approval of funding for restoration of the Franklin Mile marker on the common;

- the funding of framing of the Quaboag Plantation 350th Anniversary Proclamation signed by settler descendants. (This was given to the Commission and is on display in the Town Clerk's office.)
- the funding of repainting of the "*Center Historic District*" sign on the common;
- the attendance of members at an "*Historic Cemetery Preservation*" workshop in Lowell;
- the continued work with the East Quabbin Land Trust to preserve the *1665 John Pynchon Mill Site* on Sucker Brook;
- participation in preparation of the new Open Space Plan prepared in conjunction with the preservation of the McRevey land;
- welcoming new Commission members: Louise Garwood and Anne Phillips; and
- the purchase of a new file cabinet and computer.

Once again, a generous gift was received from the J. Irving and Jane L. England Charitable Trust. This gift, along with the support of the Town, enabled us to undertake the projects outlined. We truly express our gratitude for this support.

The 2011 members and associate members are:

Amy Dugas	Nancy Parker
Dave Fitzgerald	Anne Phillips
Joan Fitzgerald	Barbara Rossman
Louise Garwood	Richard Rossman
Anne-Marie Nolan	

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Rossman, Chairman

HOUSING AUTHORITY

We herby submit our annual report to you, the Honorable Board of Selectmen, and the people of the Town of West Brookfield.

The West Brookfield Housing Authority held twelve (12) regular meetings and six (6) special meetings during 2011. The West Brookfield Housing Authority meets on the third Monday of each month in the Community Building at Olde Village Place, 29 East Main Street. The meetings are held at 11:00am and are open to the public. All meetings are posted with the Town Clerk. Our annual meeting is held in May.

All housing authorities have four (4) members elected by the voters of the town and one member appointed by the Governor of Massachusetts. Our elected members are Beverly Anderson, Ken Miller, James Pierce, and Peggy Walker. Our appointed member and Chairman is Michael Frew.

The West Brookfield Housing Authority has three (3) employees: Maintenance Manager, Keith Bordeau; Administrative Assistant, Laurie Sokol; and Executive Director, Fiona Andrewes.

The Authority currently administers thirty-six (36) one-bedroom units under the State's Chapter 667 Program, six (6) three-bedroom units and four (4) two-bedroom units under the State's Chapter 705 Program. Also located on our site is a Chapter 689 Program that is administered by the Bridge of Central Massachusetts. All of these programs are funded by the Department of Housing and Community Development and are operated under state guidelines. The West Brookfield Housing Authority processes applications for state-aided elderly

housing from persons who are sixty years of age or older. As in the past, handicapped persons continue to be eligible for state-aided housing for the elderly, regardless of age. The Authority also processes applications for state-aided family housing from persons who qualify. Preference is given to local residents and local veterans. This past year we housed three (3) elderly tenants, two (2) of which were local veterans. Anyone who wishes to live at Olde Village Place should fill out an application, which can be obtained from the office. Tenant selection is made from our waiting list, and all state guidelines are adhered to in the tenant selection process.

We wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to the West Brookfield Police, Fire, and Rescue Departments for their caring dedication to the safety and security of our residents.

Respectfully submitted,

The West Brookfield Housing Authority

Michael Frew, Chairman
Beverly Anderson
Ken Miller
James Pierce
Peggy Walker

INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS

Single Family Dwelling	5
Sheds	3
Additions	3
Roofing	36
Garages	3
Windows/Siding	15
Renovations/Remodeling	17
Stoves/Pellet/Wood	18
Pools/In-ground/Above ground	3
Signs	2
Decks	1
Demolition	2
Barns	6
Pavilion/Gazebo	0
Antenna/Cell Tower	2
ADA Ramp	0
Solar	4
Weatherization/Insulation	2
Total	<u>122</u>

Total Permit Income	\$24,154.70
Estimated Value on Permits	\$3,487,131.00

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Taylor, Inspector of Buildings

LAKE WICKABOAG PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION - "LWPA"

It was an interesting year around Lake Wickaboag. After the year when we celebrated the Quaboag Plantation's 350th Anniversary, along with the annual Fourth of July decorated cottages, the regatta, and the parade, we expected a quiet 2011 summer season. All was going well until late August when we were hit with Irene and the remnants of Lee. With the lake rising nearly twenty inches from Irene, we closed it to boat traffic for five days to minimize the possible damage from high water and waves. Many boats were taken out for the season. A week after reopening the lake, what remained of Lee passed, and the lake rose nearly twenty-four inches. We closed a second time for a week. With limited boating activity during the entire time, Lake Wickaboag became as clear as we see it in May after a long winter without boating activity. Something to think about when we address the problems we have with the water quality.

We started the 2011 season with the ability to see almost seven feet down into the lake using our Sechi disk. However, by mid-June we began to observe deterioration in clarity, and we scheduled our first, and only, algae treatment for August 2nd. During August we again encountered excessive amounts of Chara, an alga that appears string-like and can be mistaken for a weed form. The contractors we have spoken with suggested that this is actually a beneficial alga because it grows low to the bottom and can limit weed growth. However, the amount we experienced was significant enough to warrant several treatments. As a result, the Chara was reduced at the

end of Rodman Road and an area near the Boat Club. We may struggle with managing Chara for several more years.

Each year, working with Lycott Environmental, we conduct several weed surveys of the lake. Our initial analysis this year again identified a large portion of variable milfoil in the north end of the lake. After two treatments, most of the milfoil disappeared. However, because the weed grows in very shallow water in the area that cannot be treated effectively, we will continue to see it reappear in the future. We also identified a large growth of Tape Grass in the cove near the dam. With two treatments, this somewhat beneficial plant was significantly reduced.

In addition to the lake monitoring, we hosted another successful lake clean up, convened an educational annual meeting, published spring and fall newsletters, and supported dam maintenance activities. The decorated waterfront contest was not held on July 4th as a new committee did not materialize. Working with the Stormwater Authority and consultants from ESS, we were very pleased that West Brookfield was awarded a \$350,000 319 grant for a stormwater improvement project for the two retention ponds next to the town beach. Completion of this project will limit the amount of run-off of contaminants flowing into the lake. Final plans have been approved and preparation of the permits is underway. The actual work is expected to begin in the late fall of 2012.

Representatives of the LWPA have been actively participating with the West Brookfield Board of Health and other interested town residents in a project to dredge part of the north end of the lake. Apex Companies LLC

was hired as the project consultants. After taking nearly one hundred samples and compositing those into thirty-six units, the analyses indicate there are no serious contaminants in the sediments. However, there is no viable commercial use for the material and we are examining several sites around the lake where the material could be deposited and covered. Funding of the initial segments of the newly projected \$5 - \$8 million dredging project is occurring with private donations. \$125,000 has been raised and an additional \$25,000 amount will be matched by a lake front family. Watch the LWPA newsletter for additional status reports. Additional fundraising efforts are underway.

During 2012, we will expand our lake monitoring program and continue publication of our newsletters. We will conduct another lake clean up. In the future, we would like to extend the cleanup program to include the entire town, and will be looking for volunteers for the effort.

ANNUAL BUDGET FROM WEST BROOKFIELD
Fiscal Year July 1 to June 30

	<u>'09 – '10</u>	<u>'10 – '11</u>	<u>'11 – 12</u>	<u>'12 – '13</u>
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate
Weed Management	\$8,900	\$8,900	\$8,900	\$10,000
Algae Management	3,700	5,590	4,420	5,000
Water Testing/Projects	4,310	2,420	3,590	1,910
TOTAL	\$16,910	\$16,910	\$16,910	\$16,910
Budget	\$16,910	\$16,910	\$16,910	\$16,910
Under (Over) Budget	\$-0-	\$-0-	\$-0-	\$-0-

While there has been an overall decline in the weed population, new species arrive and old ones return, so there will be a need to continue the surveys and some weed treatments. With the cost of copper used in copper

sulfate for algae treatments remaining high, we may have enough funds for only one treatment during the summer of 2012.

LWPA remains committed to achieving the best water quality for our lake. We thank all town officials and the town residents for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Albert F. Collings, President
Mary Beth Czaja, Vice-President

LIBRARY

This past year was “a year of change” at Merriam-Gilbert Public Library. The beginning of the new fiscal year was marked by the end of an era, with the departure of 10-year Library Director Lisa Careau, after devoting 14 years of service to the Library and community. It was a new dawn, a new day, for the Library, as the search commenced for a new Library Director and Custodian (after that position was vacated by Stephen Pilch, upon his full-time hiring by the Town’s Highway Department). In addition, the Library’s renovation project and grand re-opening were cause for celebration.

The Library was closed for interior renovations, including carpeting, shelving, and painting, for the month of September, during which time, area libraries (North Brookfield, Spencer, and Warren) provided outstanding service to our patrons. A special note of appreciation is extended to National Library Relocations, Tucker Library

Interiors, P&P Floor Covering, and JD Drywall & Remodeling, for their commendable work, giving the Library a much-needed “facelift,” the results of which have earned favorable comments. The new colors are warm and vibrant, most notably the second floor non-fiction room. Two large shelving units, formerly used for book sale items were given to the Quaboag Historical Museum. The renovation expenses were funded by an article approved at Town Meeting, the Library’s endowment accounts (Lig/Meg and England Trust), and a generous outside benefactor (Country Bank for Savings).

After the Library re-opened in October, the Friends of the Library hosted a “Grand Re-opening” celebration attended by Senator Stephen Brewer and State Representative Anne Gobi (both of whom presided over the ribbon-cutting ceremony). Adding to the festivities was Alice Jay, who gifted the Library, Senator, and Representative with signed copies of her book, *“Quaboag Plantation, the Beginning,”* a compilation of parish meeting records from 1754 – 1826.





Library programs continued to be successful throughout the year. In early spring, *“The Art of Georgia O’Keeffe: How to Pastel Paint Flowers”* with award-winning artist Gregory Maichack was enjoyed by 15 participants. *“And Now... Mark Twain!!”* featured actor, Richard Clark, who presented a delightful look at the life and work of America’s foremost humorist. Both programs were sponsored by West Brookfield Local Cultural Council grants. Later in the year, the Civil War Sesquicentennial was commemorated with two programs hosted by the West Brookfield Historical Commission: *“Ghost Stories From My Aunts”* with Katie Greens, sharing “true” stories from the Civil War and *“Civil War Drums”*, highlighting the Nobel & Cooley Center for Historic Preservation Museum in Granville, MA, where drums were manufactured, one of which was found on the battlefield of Gettysburg. Two ordinary, inspirational women, who climbed the 67 highest mountains in New England, presented *“It’s Not about the Hike,”* (it’s about “climbing our

own mountains”). To end the year, Tina Bemis of Bemis Farms Nursery returned in December with another creative workshop, “*Holiday Centerpieces*,” with fifteen (15) patrons showing their creations in the *Telegram Towns* and on our Facebook Page.

The Adult Book Group was a hit with avid readers. Led by Library Page, Maggie Christakis, they discussed such titles as Elena Gorokhova’s “*A Mountain of Crumbs*,” Ursula LeGuin’s “*The Dispossessed*,” Louis de Bernieres’ “*Corelli’s Mandolin*,” and Ann Patchett’s “*Bel Canto*,” along with several poetry selections.

The Library offered three rotating art exhibits in the 2nd floor meeting room:

- The Library’s own collection of original art and objects d’art including a Bible printed nearly 200 years ago at the G&C Merriam Printing Company when it occupied 8 West Main Street (currently the location of Country Bank for Savings), and the winning entry of the postcard contest from the Quaboag Plantation 350th Anniversary celebration.
- Massachusetts artist, Pam Spielberg, displayed her talents through a retrospective of her artwork, highlighting her “*Memory Paintings*”, a series pondering the experience of profound childhood joy which she captured incorporating painting, poetry and photography.
- Ginette Greenleaf McVeigh’s original Native-American artwork, all frames custom made from tree bark by her husband, David.

In March, the Library purchased four e-Readers to circulate to its patrons, which was made possible with another generous grant provided by the West Brookfield Local Cultural Council (LCC). The Library owns one (1)

Kindle, two (2) Nook Colors, and one (1) Sony Daily Edutio; each device offering its own unique set of features and benefits. The C/WMARS digital catalog expanded with the Gutenberg Project, enabling patrons to borrow more public domain E-books.

Monthly Children's programs continued with Story Hour, Toddler Playgroup, Craft Club, Bedtime Snacks, and Lego Club, averaging 25 patrons in attendance. In February, the popular and well-attended American Red Cross Babysitting Basic Course was sponsored by the West Brookfield Local Cultural Council and lunch was provided by P&S Pizza. In November, our Annual First Grade Field Trip to the Library welcomed 44 students from the West Brookfield Elementary School. The children received their Library Cards and toured the Library after reading stories with Mary, the Children's Librarian, who also visits the first graders monthly with more stories.

In April, author/illustrator David Hyde Costello gave a children's program followed by a "Meet & Greet." The program was sponsored by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grant from Collaborative for Educational Services in Northampton. The Library, as well as the 21 families in attendance, received a complimentary signed copy of his book *"I Can Help,"* which was funded by the CFCE grant.

Our popular Summer Reading Program began in July and its theme of *"One World, Many Stories"* took patrons of all ages around the globe with crafts from a variety of countries every Thursday from 2:30 – 3:30pm; and the Creative Performance Series provided family entertainment every Tuesday from 6:30 – 7:30pm. Over

2,300 patrons participated in our program. Performers included:

Magician Debbie O'Carroll's *"The Small World Magic Show!"*
Craig Harris' *"Drum Away the Global Blues!"*
Pumpnickel Puppets' *"Sir George and the Dragon"*
Jungle Encounters' *"Animals Around the Globe!"*
Diane Edgecomb's *"Around the World Folktales!"*
Museum of Science's *"Reptiles"*
Robb Perskins' *"The Sky Pirate Show!"*

"One World, Many Stories" was made possible at your local library through the following local businesses and institutions:

Big Y	\$20.00 Gift Card
Country Bank for Savings	\$350.00
Dr. Thomas Cahill	\$50.00
Family First Bank	\$100.00
Gremarco Industries	\$100.00
Hearst Foundation	\$325.00 (MOS)
North Brookfield Savings Bank	\$375.00
Shaw's	\$20.00 Gift Card
Spencer Savings Bank	\$100.00
Webster First Federal Credit Union	\$75.00
Local Cultural Council Grant	\$1,300.00
Massachusetts Library System	
Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and Boston Bruins	

The England Trust gifted the library \$7,500, which was set aside for future building-maintenance emergencies, (some of which helped fund the renovation project). The West Brookfield Historical Commission funded the Old Sturbridge Village passes, and donated a Library commemorative ornament and a copy of their book, "A

History of West Brookfield, 1675 – 1990” to the Friends of the MGPL White Christmas Raffle Table.

The Library is extremely valuable to our community. The Library’s appropriated budget for the year was \$178,101.96. The Massachusetts Library Association’s Value of the Library Service Calculator reveals exactly how valuable our goods and services are to the people of West Brookfield.

Use	Services	Value
10,282	Adult Books Borrowed	174,794.00
9,251	Children’s/Young Adult Books Borrowed	111,012.00
1,129	Magazines Borrowed	5,645.00
1,060	Newspapers Browsed	10,070.00
7,900	Videos Borrowed	31,600.00
1,778	Audio Books Borrowed	17,691.00
1,022	CDs Borrowed	10,168.90
47	Museum Passes Borrowed	1,410.00
4,366	Interlibrary Loan	109,150.00
32	Adult Programs Attended	480.00
94	Children’s Programs Attended	659.00
3,910	Hours of Computer Use	46,920.00
8,111	Information Research Requests Answered	56,777.00
Value to the Community:		576,377.00

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners awarded the library several grants totaling \$4,044.84 for participating in the survey and meeting/exceeding 10 certification requirements.

The Board of Library Trustees is composed of a group of elected officials who, along with the Director, make important library decisions involving budget, building maintenance, and library advocacy on local and state levels. These individuals donate their time to support the

library and to ensure its significance for future generations. The Board consists of Virginia Allen, Lizzie Anaya-Calderon, Mark Jordan, Alexandra McNitt, Michael Ozbayrak, Jeff Robbins (Sec.), and Paul Spencer (Chair). They would like to thank our dedicated Library volunteers: Doris Carlson, Danielle Casey, Sean Jackson, Ashley Leger, Jessica Peltz, Judy Kelley-Rzeznikiewicz, and the Friends of the Library.



Virginia Allen, Paul Spencer, Alexandra McNitt, and Lizzie Anaya-Calderon. Not pictured: Mark Jordan, Michael Ozbayrak, and Jeff Robbins.

The Friends of the Library (FOL), led by President Judy Kelley-Rzeznikiewicz, hosted two events. The Annual Book Sale was held in June, (inside the Library for the first time due to inclement weather). Special thanks to members of the North Brookfield Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for their assistance. Prior to the Book Sale, we donate some of our books to the West Brookfield Elementary School Library. The Annual

White Christmas Raffle was a very successful fundraising effort, the proceeds of which were unprecedented. The record number of donations by local businesses and residents and exceptional community participation made for a memorable day.

The FOL supports the library by sponsoring our Museum Passes, website updates, service, and special programming. Museum Passes provided by the Friends are Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory and Gardens, The Ecotarium, and Springfield Museum.

Our Staff strives to provide its patrons with exemplary service and support. We take pride in the Library's appearance and our goal is to maintain an inviting, welcoming, and comfortable environment. Adult Librarian, Holly Takorian and children's Librarian, Mary Beth Jackson are dedicated to the Library and its patrons with current and exciting resources and programs. Our part-time staff of pages augments the full-time staff and is comprised of Maggie Christakis, Elaine Courtemanche, Kally Judycki, and Melody Spencer. Finally, our custodian, John Grabosky or "Head Custodian" as he calls himself, has proven to be an asset with his handyman knowledge, always at the ready with special projects, and dedicated to his craft.

After three long months, and careful consideration, the quest for Library Director culminated in November with the hiring of energetic and enthusiastic Carrie Grimshaw, who was officially introduced to West Brookfield on White Christmas, an event befitting the occasion.



Melody Spencer, Elaine Courtemanche, Holly Takorian, Kally Judycki, Carrie Grimshaw, John Grabosky, and Mary Beth Jackson (from left to right). Not pictured: Maggie Christakis.

Lastly, the Staff, Board of Trustees, and Friends of the Library wish to express their heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to Lisa Careau, who devoted more than 14 years to the Library and community. As the first Children's Librarian, she developed and expanded several programs and services, many of which are still in place today, such as Playgroup and library/school collaboration. During her 10-year tenure as Director, numerous improvements were made to the facility both interiorly, (from the vibrant wall colors to the art collection and rotating exhibits), and exteriorly, (from the ramp canopy to the gardens, patio and lightning rods). These accomplishments highlight just a few of Lisa's achievements, the list being quite extensive. Lisa demonstrated a strong work ethic for all to aspire to, and because of her leader-

ship and advocacy, the Staff enjoys a professional and efficient work environment, ultimately fostering exemplary patron service. She literally transported the Library into the 21st century, through the establishment of several technological applications, most notably the C/WMARS conversion, website, Facebook fanpage, WiFi and e-Readers. Although Lisa's presence will be missed, her significant contributions as well as those of Mark Jordan, long-term Trustee and Friend of the Library, will stand as a lasting legacy of their devoted efforts on our behalf.

To quote Lisa, *“As always, I strongly encourage the community to support, with confidence, the conviction that a public library is not an extravagance, but an indispensable necessity that should be maintained and preserved for future generations to derive benefit from.”*



Lisa Careau

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Grimshaw, Library Director

LIST OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS

* Indicates Chairperson. () Indicates Term of Office

ADVISORY BOARD (7 MEMBERS – 3 YEAR TERMS)

Richard Gobi	(2012)	
Al Collings	(2012)	
G. Thomas Schnare	(2013)	Resigned
Tom Long	(2013)	*Appt to 2012
Diane Vayda	(2013)	
Roy Roberts	(2013)	
Phil Landine	(2014)	
John Tivnan	(2014)	

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Brad Quigley	(2012)	*
Roger Slobody	(2012)	
Arthur Maskell	(2012)	
Gordon DeWolf	(2012)	
Vacant	(2012)	
Barry Nadon, Sr.	(2012)	Alternate
Vacant	(2012)	Alternate
Vacant	(2012)	Alternate
Lisa Long	(2012)	Alternate

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COORDINATOR

Johanna Barry	(2012)
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ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER/DOG OFFICER

Leah Shattuck	(2012)
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ANIMAL INSPECTOR

Barry J. Nadon, Sr. (04/30/12)

ASPARAGUS & FLOWER HERITAGE FESTIVAL

George Hibbard (2012)

Richard Rossman (2012)

Amy Dugas (2012)

Elaine Hibbard (2012)

Claudia Tourigny (2012)

ASSISTANT TOWN CLERKS

Tammi Kemp (2012)

Geraldine Sauve (2012)

Teresa Barrett (2012)

Christine Long (2012)

Robert Spera (2012)

ASSISTANT TOWN TREASURER

Teri Ann Roberts (2012)

AUCTIONEER (PROPERTY)

Johanna Barry (2012)

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

Anna May Zabek (2012)

Madelyn Tivnan (2013)

Jane R. Dolan (2014)

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Jeff Taylor (2012)

John Couture (2012) Alternate

BURIAL GROUND COMMISSIONERS

Kevin Roberts (2012)
Marjorie Reim (2013)
John Bartlett (2014)

CABLE TELEVISION COMMITTEE, LOCAL ACCESS

Barry Gillogly, Director (2012)

CENTRAL MASS. REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Tim Morrell (2012)
Mark Long (2012) Alternate

CMRPC REGIONAL PLANNING TASK FORCE

C. Thomas O'Donnell (2012)

CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Johanna Barry (2012)

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR

Paul Lupacchino (2012)

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Gary Simeone (2012)
Cliff Comptois (2012)
Madelyn Tivnan (2012)
Mandy Morrison (2012)
Keith Arsenault (2012)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (3 YEAR TERMS – CHP 40, SEC 8C)

Gordon DeWolf	(2012)
James Talvy	(2012)
Christine M. Long	(2013)
Eric Tunley	(2013)
Brian Silva	(2014)
Richard Provencher	(2014)
Jesse Serrano	(2014)

(COA) WB SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR

Cynthia Norden, Director	(2012)
Betty Frew, Asst. Director	(2012)

COUNCIL ON AGING

Connie Pratt	(2012)	
Oliver Hill	(2012)	Deceased
Carolyn Boucher	(2012)	
Gloria Hanks	(2013)	
Jim Pierce	(2013)	
Irene White	(2013)	
Eric Tunley	(2013)	
Beverly Cassavant	(2014)	
Catherine Buzzell	(2014)	

COUNCIL ON AGING CUSTODIAN

Justyna Ball	(2012)
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COUNCIL ON AGING SMC ELDER BUS BOARD

Cynthia M. Norden	(2012)
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CUSTODIAN OF PROPERTY

Board of Selectmen	(2012)
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CULTURAL GRANTS COUNCIL

Joan Veinot (2012)
Fern Maskell (2012)
Kate Kane (2012)
Richard Ullman (2012)
Barry Gillogly (2012)
Paula Slade (2012)
Cynthia Laub (2012)

EARTH REMOVAL BOARD

Bob Lipovsky (2012) Planning
Jason Paquette (2012) Health
Michael Frew (2012) Selectmen
Gordon DeWolf (2012) Conservation
Richard Aube (2012) Zoning (Deceased)
Vacant (2012) Zoning

E-911 COORDINATOR

Paul Lupacchino (2012)

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR

Kevin Dunivan (2012)
Keith Fontaine (2012) Alternate

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

C. Thomas O'Donnell (2012)

ETHICS COMMISSION LIAISON

Sarah Allen (2012)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Johanna Barry (2013)

FIRE CHIEF

Paul Lupacchino (2012)

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Robert Benson	Deputy Chief
Daniel Santos	Assistant Chief
Wesley Cassavant	Captain, Retired
Joseph Landry	Lieutenant
Scott Anderson	Training Lieutenant
David Tebo	Lieutenant

FOREST FIRE WARDEN

Paul Lupacchino (2012)

GAS PIPING & GAS APPLIANCES/PLUMBING INSPECTOR

Joseph Ciejka	(2012)	
Carl Marco	(2012)	Alternate (moved)
Edward Kent	(2012)	Alternate

HARBORMASTER

Joseph Borlikoski (2012)

HAZARDOUS WASTE COORDINATOR

Brian Charron	(2012)	
David Tebo	(2012)	Assistant

HIGHWAY CLERK

Tammi Kemp (2012)

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

James P. Daley (2012)

HISTORICAL COMMISSION (7 MEMBER BOARD)

Richard Rossman	(2012)	Rotating 3-year term
Edwin Dow	(2012)	Deceased
Anne Phillips	(2012)	
Barbara Rossman	(2013)	
David Fitzgerald	(2013)	
Anne Marie Nolan	(2013)	
Nancy Parker	(2014)	Resignation Jan.
Louise Garwood	(2014)	
Amy Dugas	(2014)	

HISTORICAL CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION

Peggy Walker	(2012)
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INSECT & PEST CONTROL INSPECTOR

James DiMaio	(2012)
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LAKE WICKABOAG DREDGING ADMINISTRATORS

Melvin Dorman	(2012)
John Frizzell	(2012)
Jason Paquette	(2012)

LIAISONS

Michael Frew	To Highway Department
Barry Nadon, Jr.	To Quaboag School District
Mark Long	To Fire & Police Departments

LIBRARY CHILDREN'S SERVICES LIBRARIAN

Margot Christakis	Interim
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LIBRARY CUSTODIAN

John Grabosky	(2012)
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LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Lisa Careau	(2012)	Resigned
Carrie Grimshaw	(2012)	

MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

Timothy Morrell	(2012)	
Gordon DeWolf	(2012)	
Sonia Burke	(2012)	

MUNICIPALITIES ORGANIZED FOR REGIONAL EFFECTIVENESS (MORE) REPRESENTATIVES

Barry J. Nadon, Jr.	(2012)	
Michael Frew	(2012)	Alternate

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Lisa Marie Berthel	(2012)	
Patricia Woffenden	(2012)	Secretary
Cindy Larson	(2012)	Co-Chair, Co-Treasurer
Robyn Scott	(2012)	
Diana Lask	(2012)	Co-Treasurer
Rebecca Fay	(2012)	Co-Chair
Tracy Ashworth	(2012)	Concession Chair
Eric Von Bleicken	(2012)	
Jaclyn Von Bleicken	(2012)	
Talya Westbrook	(2012)	

OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Tim Morrell	(2012)	Planning
Anne Marie Nolan	(2012)	Historical
Mary Beth Czaja	(2012)	LWPA (Ex-Officio)
Ralph Carlson	(2012)	LWPA
Gordon DeWolf	(2012)	Conservation
Vacant	(2012)	Recreation (Ex-Officio)

PARKING CLERK

Teresa Barrett (2012)

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF OF POLICE

C. Thomas O'Donnell

SERGEANT

Charles LaPerle (2013)

FULL TIME POLICE OFFICERS

Harold Parker Lifetime* 3 year rollover

S. Patrick Swain Lifetime* 3 year rollover

Edwin Ward (2013)

Matt Letendre (2013)

PART TIME POLICE OFFICERS

David Pierce Lifetime* 3 year rollover

Marissa Brown Lifetime* 3 year rollover

Brian Ayers Lifetime* 3 year rollover

Eric Mawhinney Lifetime* 3 year rollover

Kara Hartung (2012)

Eric Iwaniec (2012)

Herbert Duggan (2013)

CONSTABLES

C. Thomas O'Donnell	(2012)
Arthur Tatro	(2012)
John Healy	(2012)
David Pierce	(2012)
Harold Parker	(2012)
Marissa Brown	(2012)
Charles LePerle	(2012)
S. Patrick Swain	(2012)
Edwin Ward	(2012)

POLICE DEPARTMENT CLERK

Tammi Kemp	(2012)
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QUABOAG HIGH SCHOOL MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVE

Barry J. Nadon, Jr.	(2012)
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QUABOAG SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

Barry J. Nadon, Jr.	(2012)
Michael Frew	(2012)

QUABOAG VALLEY BUSINESS ASST. CORP REP.

Alexandra McNitt	(2012)
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RECREATION COMMITTEE

Paris Gogos	(2012)
John Vayda	(2012)
Teresa Barrett	(2012)
John Schlosstein	(2012)

REGIONAL TASK FORCE

Michael Frew (2012)
Mark Long (2012)
Barry Nadon, Jr. (2012)

REPRESENTATIVE TO CENTRAL DISPATCH

C. Thomas O'Donnell (2012)

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ROCK HOUSE

Barry J. Nadon, Jr. (2012)

RIGHT TO KNOW MUNICIPAL COORDINATOR

Brian Charron (2012)

ROAD PROJECTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Michael Frew (2012)
Jim Daley (2012)
Jeff Robbins (2012)
Bill King (2012)
Keith Arsenault (2012)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OFFICER

Teri Ann Roberts (2012)

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

James Daley	(2012)	Highway
Suzanne LePage	(2012)	Member at Large
John Frizzell	(2012)	Health
Johanna Barry	(2012)	Selectmen
Gordon DeWolf	(2012)	Conservation
Robert Benson	(2012)	Water
Tim Morrell	(2012)	Planning

TOWN ACCOUNTANT

Marie Arsenault (2013)

TOWN COUNSEL

Petrini & Associates (2012)

TREE WARDEN

James DiMaio (2012)

TRIATHLON COMMITTEE

Rachel Wilson (2012)

Billie Moberg (2012)

Amanda Ostrout (2012)

Felix Kurilov (2012)

James Wilson (2012)

VETERAN'S AGENT

S. Patrick Swain (2012)

WAR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Ron Marchessault (2012)

Anna May Zabek (2012)

WMCTF COMMITTEE - Western MA Casino Task Force

Barry J. Nadon, Jr. (2012) Representative

Vacant (2012) Alternate

WHITE CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE

Madaline Arn	(2012)
Richard Rossman	(2012)
Charlotte Boos	(2012)
Barbara Rossman	(2012)
Ursula Couture	(2012)

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (APPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE PRIOR TO MARCH 1ST)

Joan Veinot	(2012)	
George Hibbard	(2012)	Associate Member (*1AM's - rotating 2 year term)
Richard Aube	(2013)	Deceased
Vacant	(2013)	Associate Member
David Broschart	(2013)	Associate Member (*1AM's - rotating 2 year term)
Kevin Dorman	(2014)	
David Broschart	(2013)	

ZONING OFFICER

Gary Simeone	(2012)
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LIST OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

* Indicates Chairperson. () Indicates Term of Office

MODERATOR

Lynda Plante	(2013)	Deceased
Trevor Brown	(2012)	Elected At Town Meeting

TOWN CLERK

Sarah J. Allen	(2013)
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Barry J. Nadon, Jr.	(2012)
Michael H. Frew	(2013)
Mark Long	(2014)

TOWN TREASURER

Keith R. Arsenault	(2013)
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TAX COLLECTOR

Teresa M. Barrett	(2013)
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BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Kevin G. Dorman	(2012)
William F. Mansfield	(2013)
Nicole M. Vongratsamy	(2014)

BOARD OF HEALTH

Melvin F. Dorman	(2012)
John E. Frizzell, Sr.	(2013)
Jason Paquette	(2014)

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Michael Ozbayrak	(2012)	
Alexandra McNitt	(2012)	
Mark A. Jordan	(2013)	* Resigned
Jeffrey R. Robbins	(2013)	
Lizzie Anaya-Calderon	(2014)	
Virginia A. Allen	(2014)	
Paul D. Spence	(2014)	
Peter Scribner	(2013)	Until May Election 2012

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Lester Paquette, Sr.	(2012)
Robert E. Benson	(2013)
Barry J. Nadon, Sr.	(2014)

COMMON COMMITTEE

Sarah Allen	(2012)
Robert Joseph Richard	(2013)
Elisabeth E. DiMaio	(2014)

HOUSING AUTHORITY (5 YEAR TERMS)

Michael J. Frew	(2010)	State Appt 5 yr term (Holdover)
Beverly Anderson	(2012)	
Peggy Walker	(2014)	
James F. Pierce	(2015)	
Kenneth B. Miller	(2016)	

PLANNING BOARD

Robert Lipovsky	(2012)	
Timothy S. Morrell	(2013)	
Robert J. Brodak	(2014)	
Keith Arsenault	(2015)	Until May Election 2012
William F. Mansfield	(2016)	

QUABOAG REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

John Dolan	(2012)
Leane M. Pierce	(2012)
Daniel Korzec	(2012)
Renee Chisholm	(2012)
Laurie A. Hebert	(2013)
Dolores A. M. Morin	(2013)
Paula Messier	(2013)
Daniel P. Para	(2013)
Clifford G. Fountain	(2014)
Andrew Schwenker	(2014)
Lori L. Loughlin	(2014)
Gina Lavallee	(2014)

PARKING CLERK

During 2011, twenty-one (21) parking tickets were issued. One hundred thirty dollars (\$130.⁰⁰) was collected and turned over to the Treasurer.

Many of the violations were attributed to unauthorized *All Night Parking* and the *Winter Parking Ban*. However, there is a decline of *Town Beach Parking Violations*.

Please be advised that from November 1st through April 1st there is a parking ban in effect during the hours of 1:00 am to 6:00 am. To obtain a beach-parking sticker, please inquire at the Police Department or Selectman's office.

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Barrett, Parking Clerk

PLANNING BOARD

The Board is pleased that after a considerable amount of time reviewing and discussing Zoning Regulations with regard to “back lot zoning,” at the annual Town Meeting in May, the residents approved the new back lot zoning regulations.

The Board wishes to thank member Merton Kenniston for his outstanding and unselfish service to the people of West Brookfield, his presence on the board will be missed.

The near future poses many interesting and challenging topics for the Board, including the now popular “solar farms,” and the regulations needed to protect our community with regard to such projects, as well as ongoing development plans for some of the larger tracts.

The Board is currently meeting on the second Monday of the month and on an as needed basis for the convenience of those who require Planning Board approval of your projects.

Respectfully submitted,

The West Brookfield Planning Board

Timothy Morrell, Chairman

Robert Lipovsky

Robert Brodak

Keith Arsenault

Bill Mansfield

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The year 2011 will be remembered as the year of the natural disaster. A winter of record snowfall followed by a spring tornado to our south, an earthquake, Tropical Storm Irene, and of course the October snowstorm. While not all of these incidents affected the town directly, those that did had a major impact. Each required a high level of inter-departmental cooperation, a real team effort. The aftermath of the response to events has served to strengthen the working relationship between the Police Department and the other departments within the town. This was most clearly evident in our rescheduled Halloween. Thanks to quick work by Ptl. Marissa Brown, Senior Center Director Cindy Norden, and a host of volunteers, we were able to have a well-attended Halloween party for the kids at the Senior Center. A big thanks to all those who donated time and candy to the event.

Despite the continual natural disasters, the department actually saw a very slight decrease in calls for service in 2011, responding to 4,240 calls. This was a decrease of approximately 130 calls from the year before. While incidents of violent crime have reduced, calls for service, especially medical emergencies have increased again.

This past year, we continued work with the Board of Selectmen and the Fire Department on locating a suitable site for a joint public safety building.

As always, we strive to deliver quality police services to the residents of West Brookfield and are extremely grateful for the support we receive from the community.

Respectfully submitted, Chief C. Thomas O'Donnell, Jr.

The following are examples of calls for service handled by the Department in 2011.

911-Hang up	39	Abandoned MV	3
Alarms	116	Animal calls	153
Assist citizen	199	Assault	9
Assist other agencies	149	Burglary	8
Building check	73	Carbon Monoxide alarm	7
Complaint/non-specific	91	Disturbance	44
Disabled vehicle	81	Domestic Disturbance	21
Escort	30	Assist Fire Department	83
Gunshots	7	Harassment	2
Harassment prevention order	1	Hazardous incident	7
Identity theft	1	Illegal dumping	4
Investigation/non-specific	19	Juvenile offences	4
Larceny	23	Lockout	80
Medical emergency	510	Motor Vehicle accident	112
Complaint – MV operations	74	Missing persons	6
Motor Vehicle investigation	205	Motor Vehicle stop	819
Notification	11	Officer initiated/non-specific	401
Property damage/vandalism	14	Annoying calls	3
Lost/found property	5	Psychiatric emergency	14
Rape	1	Records check	26
Repossession	96	Serve restraining order	5
Safety hazard	191	Stolen vehicle	6
Snow Ban	2	Serve summons	61
Suspicious activity	81	Threat	6
Trespass	7	Traffic control	189
Serve warrant	19	Welfare check	66

The 819 motor vehicle stops conducted by the Department, in 2011, had the following results:

Criminal Complaints	28	Civil Infractions	114
Arrests	19	Written Warnings	358
Verbal Warnings	266	Voided for Procedural Error	3

During 2009, ninety-one (91) people were charged with crimes and eight (8) were taken into protective custody. The following is a summary of the charges filed.

Assault and Battery	12	Assault w/intent to rape	1
Assault and Battery on a victim (+60)	1	Burglary	1
Larceny	5	Larceny of a drug	2
OUI	5	Warrant arrests	19
Suspended/Revoked license	14	Reckless/Negligent operation of a vehicle	1
Leaving the Scene of an Accident	2	Uninsured Vehicle	9
Possession of Class A substance	2	Abuse Prevention Order Violation	4
Unlicensed Operation	2	Possession of a Class E substance	4
Possession of Alcohol in public	3	Possession of Liquor – under 21	0
Possession of Chemical spray w/o FID	1	Operating with Revoked Registration	8
Indecent Assault and Battery – victim under 14	1	Indecent Assault and Battery – victim over 14	1
Rape of a child	1	Harassment	1
Annoying Calls	1	Harassment Prevention Order Violation	1
Possession of Class B substance	4	Witness Intimidation	1
Credit Card Fraud	2	Disorderly/Disturbing the Peace	3
Reckless Endangerment of a Child	2	Uttering	1
Possession of Fireworks	1	Trespass	2
Permitting Injury to the Elderly	1	Resisting Arrest	1
Giving a False Name	1	Threatening to Commit a Crime	1
Number Plate Violation	3		

PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION

Local Access (aka, West Brookfield Public Access Television, Channel 11 or WBTW) has maintained its 24/7 goal of providing diverse programming and the bulletin board.

Equipment:

1. Purchase of a Microboard combination disc burner and printer to more efficiently handle the process of transferring shows from computer to disc.

Programming:

2. The station continues to provide diverse multi-age oriented programming.

Volunteers:

3. Outreach for volunteer producers via word-of-mouth and the Channel 11 bulletin board continue as last year. Though additional contacts with the local high schools have seemed promising in the beginning, interest ebbs quickly. There are possibilities, but it will require additional time and good timing.

Bulletin Board:

4. WBTB has continued to increase the number of local event bulletins. Once again, due to the down turn economy; we still have not charged an underwriter fee in 2011 for commercial bulletins. We will monitor the situation as time goes on for any further moves.

Additional Notes for 2012:

5. For 2012, the station will continue to encourage local production. Though repeated attempts through the bulletin board and the school system have not been successful, a more consistent and focused recruitment would be necessary, but will require more resources to make awareness and empowerment possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Gillogly

QUABOAG VALLEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

QUABOAG VALLEY BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CORPORATION

In 2011, the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (CDC) and its affiliate agency, The Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation (BAC), continued its focus on community economic development issues, particularly through assistance to small businesses. The Board of Directors of the BAC includes a representative appointed by the Selectmen from each of the fifteen participant towns. West Brookfield's appointee is vacant.

The BAC made small business loans using repayment funds from a CDBG grant through the Town of Palmer and a loan from the US Dept. of Agriculture. The BAC also has a line of credit with seven area banks: *Bank of America, Country Bank for Savings, FamilyFirst Bank, Monson Savings Bank, North Brookfield Savings Bank, Southbridge Savings Bank, and Spencer Savings Bank*. In 2011, three loans were approved totaling \$79,500. These loans were in the following towns: Belchertown, Palmer, and Southbridge.

The CDC continued to provide direct assistance to small businesses throughout the year, interacting with 59 businesses within the region. Of these, 48 received at least one hour of individual business technical assistance with an average of 8.26 hours each. In some cases, this was in the form of business planning assistance. In other cases, it was outside consulting with attorneys, accountants, computer specialists, bookkeepers, and marketing consultants. Most was underwritten by a grant from the

Massachusetts Department of Business Development. In the Town of West Brookfield, four (4) were assisted.

Computer and business training to businesses and their employees continued through the CDC in 2011 in Palmer and Ware. Twenty-four individuals representing 16 businesses received training, including six from West Brookfield.

The two organizations continued to be supported by local municipalities, libraries and banks as well as state and federal grants.

Residents are encouraged to contact the CDC with business financing, training or technical assistance needs by calling **413-967-3001** or visiting the website:

www.qvcdc.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Rutherford, Executive Director

RESCUE SQUAD

The West Brookfield Rescue Squad responded to over five hundred eighty-two 911 calls in 2011, our 59th year of service to West Brookfield. Although our call volume leveled off this year, it continues to increase yearly when we look at using mutual aid for second and third calls while we are already on a call. The majority of calls continue to be for medical emergencies, but the numbers also reflect motor vehicle accidents, assisting the Fire Department at fire scenes, lift assists, and patient evaluations and refusals.

The Rescue Squad currently has twenty-one active EMTs and one administration secretary, the result of our active effort to recruit and financially support their EMT training. We will soon add two more EMTs, who are completing their training. Our goal continues to be to provide the Town of West Brookfield with 24-hours a day, 7-days a week emergency service. In the spring of 2009, with more active EMTs available, the squad changed its emergency response from a “volunteer response” to a paid on-call shift schedule system. The monthly schedule gives 24/7 coverage with 3-8 hour shifts. This decision was also driven by the daily need for services. With our second year of schedules experienced, we can say it has strengthened our ability to cover our call volume and provide a faster response. This change was done at no cost to the community and we have found that this program has allowed us to cover most, if not all, of our calls. At times, however, when *a full crew is unavailable or additional ambulances are needed*, we continue to rely on neighboring towns for mutual aid. We also rely on these towns for ALS (Advanced Life Support) for patients as needed.

In order to meet the demand for our increasing call volume and our continued goal of complete 24-hour coverage, the Rescue Squad continues to need more EMTs. Baystate Mary Lane Hospital offers EMT courses through its Community Outreach Department. The next scheduled course is to be determined, usually running mid-September. Participants who complete the course and join the squad will be reimbursed the tuition fee, after the successful completion of a membership application, pre-employment physical, and a probationary period of active service. With financial difficulties facing many, the WBRS is again able to offer scholarships to qualifying

students, who are able to make a commitment of service to the squad.

West Brookfield Rescue Squad welcomes new members at any time. Anyone interested in joining can contact President Paul Lupacchino (508-867-3742) or any other squad member.

West Brookfield Rescue Squad continues to be committed to giving back to the community. First Responder and CPR training is provided free of charge to various town departments, as needed, and offered to the public throughout the year, time permitting. The Rescue Squad maintains the Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) in the following locations: Elementary School, Senior Center, Library, and the Town Hall, all free of charge to the community. With this dedication, West Brookfield has been designated a heart safe community by Central Mass Regional Office of Emergency Medical Services and the American Heart Association.

The cost of operating the Rescue Squad continues to rise, not only with the above mentioned community services provided, but a large anticipated expense in the near future, a replacement ambulance, should be in by town meeting and will meet the needs of the Squad for the next 10-years. This expense is \$230,000. All of the Rescue Squad's expenses are covered by utilizing the monies collected from insurance company reimbursements for services, the Annual Subscription Drive, as well as the memorial and general contributions given generously throughout the year. Our services continue to be offered to the Town of West Brookfield for "ZERO" tax dollars. Without your continued generosity, it would be very difficult to continue this service. The Rescue Squad is a 501C3 corporation; all donations are tax deductible.

Please remember the West Brookfield Rescue Squad is a state licensed “**EMERGENCY** TRANSPORT” ambulance. We are unable to provide transport to the hospital for **non-emergency** evaluations, treatments, or appointments under our state license.

Please call 911, the EMERGENCY ONLY NUMBER, when a LIFE THREATENING or MEDICAL EMERGENCY arises.

We would like to thank the residents of West Brookfield for their continued support of our efforts. We appreciate the continued financial support through the subscription drive, memorial contributions, and other generous donations throughout the years. As always, we would like to thank the Police, Fire, Highway, and Central Dispatch for their help and support, when needed, but *most of all we would like to thank our families for their understanding and support for the work we do to help keep West Brookfield safe.*

Members:

President, BOD: Paul Lupacchino

Vice-President, BOD: M. Christine Coulthard-Schlosstein

Board of Directors: Edward Ye, Renee White (Cook), Diane Merriam, Josh Howe, James Boos

Members: Peggy Walker, Dan Santos, Ashley Hopkins, Michelle Carroll, Brian Charron, Laura Charron, Patricia Lupacchino, Elissa Boos, Lori Merriam, Dan McCall, Brandon Fullam, David Dodson, John Drane, Cherie St. Francis, Clayton Edwards, Sharron Ricard, Pam Searah (Admin.)

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Directors, West Brookfield Rescue Squad

STORMWATER AUTHORITY

The Stormwater Authority welcomed new members Jim Daley (representing the Highway Department) and Suzanne LePage (Committee Member at-large) in 2011.

A significant ongoing event for the Stormwater Authority is enforcement of the Town's Stormwater management Bylaw and regulations. The most significant project reviewed by the authority this year was for a solar farm at 94 Ragged Hill Road (Ragged Hill Orchard). The Authority exercised its due diligence in ensuring that stormwater runoff would not exceed pre-development peak flows or become contaminated with sediment or other pollutants.

Since Lake Wickaboag is the receiving water body for a significant portion of the town's stormwater runoff, the Authority is committed to activities that promote the water quality and health of the lake.

After successfully receiving EPA funds (319 grant) and completing a stormwater mitigation project along Wickaboag Valley Road in 2009, the Town applied for and was awarded a second 319 grant from MassDEP in the amount of \$350,000. This *"Two Ponds Project"* will include improved wet detention basins, sediment fore-bays, and vegetated swales on either side of Lakeview Road near the Town Beach and football field for better pollutant trapping efficiency and improved maintenance capability. As with the prior 319 grant, a public outreach and education component is also included. Design was nearing completion at the end of the year, and a bid for construction is expected to be advertised within the first half of 2012. Project completion is expected in the fall of 2012/winter 2013.

The Town was also fortunate to have a team of undergraduate civil engineering students from WPI complete a thorough analysis of stormwater inputs to the lake. They were specifically focused on sediment and phosphorus loading, and identified Shea Road as a critical location for mitigation. A complete report was forwarded to the town.

Lastly, as fund-raising for the Lake Wickaboag dredging project continued throughout the year under the leadership of the Lake Association, the Stormwater Authority heard regular updates and will continue to be involved as the Board of Health moves forward with design and permitting.

Respectfully submitted,

Gordon DeWolf
Johanna Barry
Robert Benson
James Daley
John Frizzell
Suzanne LePage
Tim Morrell

Tax Collector

Totals represent posting activity year to date January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011

Fiscal Year	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	Totals
Real Estate Tax	\$1,829,697.62	\$3,829,672.80	\$4,121,812.56	\$4,118,526.76	\$3,929,395.06	\$17,829,104.80
Interest on Real Estate	\$2,300.08	\$14,275.97	\$17,202.12	\$28,215.42	\$25,887.54	\$87,881.13
Supplemental Tax	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest on Supplemental	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Personal Property Tax	\$35,910.57	\$73,466.18	\$67,261.07	\$58,924.18	\$50,310.57	\$285,872.57
Interest on Personal Property	\$2.89	\$35.27	\$63.07	\$180.65	\$89.81	\$371.69
Motor Vehicle/Trailer Excise	\$0.00	\$359,037.77	\$342,637.91	\$375,537.18	\$404,123.98	\$1,481,336.84
Interest on MV/Trailer Excise	\$0.00	\$1,436.23	\$1,770.83	\$5,449.52	\$3,117.74	\$11,774.32
Total Receipts	\$1,867,911.16	\$4,277,924.22	\$4,550,747.56	\$4,586,833.71	\$4,412,924.70	\$19,696,341.35

Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Barrett, Collector of Taxes

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Technology Committee continues its efforts to serve all of the departments operating in the Town Hall with their technology needs, requests, and support. We have begun replacing the hardware in each of the departments due to age and frequent problems. We continue to buy new computers for the departments, and will have replaced all of the oldest ones within the next year or so, in an effort to avoid major catastrophes during normal work hours.

We continue to work with the Advisory Committee - discussing a replacement for the now seven (7) year old server, which is showing signs of poor health. We are relying on an outside vendor (TCG) to support the server, and they have been called almost monthly during the past four months or so. The server is critical for all the departments' continued and uninterrupted work. We will look into new technologies to alleviate as much manual intervention as possible with any future hardware acquisitions or services.

Another issue we continue to have is that the new computers are working with the latest operating system, whereas the server is running on a much older one, resulting in a great deal of incompatibility that we must program around. This is inefficient, and the town departments would realize many benefits with an up-to-date operating system on the server.

When a department has support issues, we respond as quickly as possible, and, when necessary, bring in our vendor (TCG), who can respond immediately, if the situation warrants. By all accounts, town departments have been happy with the support TCG has given us.

New equipment purchased during this year is as follows:

- Four (4) computers: Assistant Treasurer and Fire Department (Highway and Assessor will get other two)
- One (1) computer for the Police Department
- Wireless router for Fire Department

We continue to purchase necessary hardware components to keep some of the older equipment going, along with software support, not only for the various departments, but for the server, as well. Some of the older equipment that has been replaced with newer hardware is kept on hand in the event that we have a need for some of the parts, or can perhaps rebuild an older computer for use in any of the departments.

We will continue to provide the technology support and assistance needed by all town departments.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary M. Simeone, Chairman
Keith Arsenault
Madelyn Tivnan
Mandy Allen

TOWN CLERK

TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD

WEST BROOKFIELD MA 01585

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #7
WEST BROOKFIELD, MA
01585

POSTAL PATRON
WEST BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01585

2011

Annual Town Meeting
Warrant
and the
Advisory Committee
Report

ELECTION - Tuesday, May 3rd 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
West Brookfield Senior Center

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - Tuesday, May 10th, 7:00 p.m.
West Brookfield Elementary School

PLEASE BRING THIS REPORT TO THE ANNUAL
TOWN MEETING FOR YOUR PERSONAL REFERENCE.

West Brookfield Advisory Committee

The Advisory Committee members are appointed by the Selectmen for three year overlapping terms and we are charged with reviewing and making recommendations on all articles that appear in any warrant presented to the voters of West Brookfield. In calendar year 2010, we met twenty-one times at an average of about two hours per meeting to fulfill our responsibilities. Agendas for all of our meetings are posted on TVWB and agendas and minutes are posted on the WB web page. A voter budget informational meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 beginning at 7:15 pm.

The fiscal year 2011 West Brookfield operating budget seems to be relatively intact as state revenues are exceeding base line estimates. However, as expected, fiscal year 2012 presents some challenges. While the national and state economies are continuing to grow slowly, the preliminary forecast for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 state budget suggests that there will be a \$1.5-\$2.0 million shortfall in revenues. Support for cities and towns has already been reduced in the governor's proposed budget and we await some possible further reductions in the legislators' budget recommendations. Local property tax increases are limited to two and one-half percent and new growth in real estate activities and fee income sources will continue to be at the lowest levels we have seen in several years. This will mean lower financial resources to support our town and schools.

For fiscal 2012, the Advisory Committee has requested that cost of living salary adjustments, except for step and grade increases, be limited to 2% and also, that budgeted expenses (excluding salary adjustments) be limited to 0% of the approved fiscal year 2011 budgeted expenses. However, contract negotiations have been concluded with the police union and the school district resulting in higher cost of living increases than we suggested.

Initial information from officials of the Quaboag Regional School District indicate that the West Brookfield share of the state mandated school district minimum contribution budget for fiscal year 2012 will be \$83,718 or 4% more than the foundation budget we approved for fiscal year 2011. In addition, the District is requesting \$132,706 in additional funds above the minimum requirement. The school budget includes significant salary adjustments for the administrative team in an effort to ensure continuity for the next several years. While the Advisory Committee supports the need to retain talented staff and their program initiatives to date, we are having difficulty supporting the large salary adjustments all in one year.

Preliminary operating budget figures for fiscal year 2012, excluding debt & water department, are as follows:

Omnibus town department operating budget requests	\$2,557,798
Education budget requests	2,941,302
Article request for recurring items	<u>384,115</u>
Total recurring operating needs	<u>\$5,883,215</u>
Raise & appropriate funds	\$5,320,665
To be funded from Free Cash & Reserve Funds	<u>562,550</u>
Total funding needed	<u>\$5,883,215</u>

Due to the prudent financial management of this and prior Advisory Committees, the Town of West Brookfield has some financial resources for funding budget priorities in times like these. However, these funds are declining as we continue to use them for operational needs. Part of the \$259,443 Free Cash on hand (a few years ago free cash was over a million dollars) plus some reserve funds will be used to fund the amounts needed above our expected income (referred to as “raise and appropriate”) estimate for this year.

West Brookfield is fortunate to have three stabilization accounts. The \$1,389,235 general stabilization account has been reserved for capital projects and the Advisory Committee has recommended that the account balance not dip below 10% of the annual operating budget or currently a minimum balance of about \$.6 million. At the May 2010 town meeting, \$276,000 was appropriated for the McRevey property transaction with the intention that a grant would restore that amount to the general stabilization account. That transaction did not occur and the Advisory Committee will be recommending returning the \$276,000 to the General Stabilization fund at the Fall Special Town Meeting. We will also recommend that some capital expenditures be appropriated from General Stabilization funds and other reserves.

The \$251,286 fire truck account was established for the purchase of a new truck. The \$2,153,194 Water Stabilization account was created from the receipt of MTBE settlement funds from various oil companies. The Advisory Committee has recommended that these accounts be used for upgrades to the aging well and water distribution system, but to leave a balance of at least \$1.5 million in the account until it is determined that there will never be an MTBE claim the town will have to defend or pay.

During this last year, we requested all departments to review their capital spending requirements for the next five years and were provided with the following estimates:

Police & Fire Department facilities	\$3,500,00
Consulting study being prepared	
Demolition of Remizewski property	50,000
Bids being sought	
Library	73,500
New Bookcases and carpet	35,000
To be town funded + balance to be funded with library endowment funds	
West Brookfield Technology	15,000
Computer replacements	
WB Elementary School	533,961
Building repairs & replacements	
WB Elementary School Technology	166,525
Replacements & upgrades	
Quaboag Middle/High School (WB share)	151,386
Building Repairs & replacements	
Quaboag Technology (WB share)	174,364
Replacements & upgrades	
School Street Intersection project	2,502,230
\$85,000 town funded + balance to be funded from grants	
Highway road maintenance	2,500,000
Town & Chapter 90 funds	
Vehicle replacements	496,804
Fleet account 2011 – 2014	
Water Department wells, pipes and filters	1,500,000
Funded in part with MTBE settlement	
Estimated Total	<u>\$11,663,770</u>

After lengthy discussions and significant reductions in the initial requests, we agreed that the Quaboag School Board should request a debt exclusion and enter into a 20 year borrowing agreement to fund their capital and technology needs. Current projections suggest that the West Brookfield share would be \$1,026,236 to be offset in 2013 with a \$400,000 recovery from the state.

The West Brookfield Roads Committee presented their recommendations for \$2,502,230 in needed road repair projects. Of the four financing options, the Advisory Committee recommended financing an additional \$150,000 for fiscal year 2012 and thereafter give consideration to entering into a bond agreement and debt exclusion at some future town meeting.

We will be reviewing capital project needs in more detail during 2011 and 2012. We are also looking into grants, loans and other resources to fund some of these items.

Our continuing updated vehicle purchase analysis for the next five years shared with voters at the town meetings has proven to be a useful tool. After discussions with department managers, we have deferred a decision to purchase a new fire truck for several years and considered less expensive options for replacing other vehicles.

With all of our financial needs and limited resources, we are going to have to continue to carefully manage our budget priorities over the next several years.

Respectfully submitted,
Albert Collings, Chair

Phil Landine	Jack Tivnan
Roy Roberts	Diane Vayda
Tom Schnare	Nicole Vongratsamy

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of West Brookfield
*****Annual Town Meeting*****

Worcester, SS.

To Either of the Constables of the Town of West 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 WEST BROOKFIELD SENIOR CENTER on 73 Central Street in said WEST BROOKFIELD ON TUESDAY, the THIRD day of MAY 2011 at 8:00 AM until 8:00 PM, then and there to elect by ballot the following Town Officers in article #1, and at the WEST BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL in said WEST BROOKFIELD on TUESDAY the TENTH day of MAY 2011 at 7:00 PM, then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1

To bring in their votes for one (1) Selectman for 3 years, one (1) Assessor for 3 years, one (1) Board of Health Member for 3 years, two (2) Library Trustees for 3 years, one (1) Water Commissioner for 3 years, one (1) Common Committee Member for 3 years, one (1) Planning Board Member for 5 years, one (1) Housing Authority Member for 5 years, four (4) Quaboag Regional School Committee Members for 3 years, one (1) Quaboag Regional School Committee Members for 2 years, or take any other action relative thereto. (Sponsored by Town Clerk)

Article 2

To hear and act upon the Annual Reports of the Town Officers and Committees, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to determine the compensation to be paid to the following elected Town Officers:

	FY'11	FY'12 Recommended
Moderator	\$150.00	\$150.00
Selectmen, each member	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Selectmen, Chairman	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
Town Treasurer	\$27,953.45	\$28,797.65
Tax Collector	\$31,158.05	\$31,781.21
Assessors, each member	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Assessors, Clerk	\$50,330.42	\$52,049.84
Board of Health, two members	\$800.00	\$800.00
Board of Health, Chairman	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Town Clerk	\$25,829.39	\$26,346.00
Water Commissioners	\$350.00 each	\$350.00 each

or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Advisory Committee)

Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury, such sums of money as listed in the Advisory Committee Report and as amended as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year 2011- 2012, and to vote that any State reimbursements which result in available funds to the Quaboag Regional School District, in excess of the approved budget, shall be used to reduce the Town's assessment, or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Advisory Committee)

Article 5

To see if the Town will vote to from Overlay Surplus a **sum of money** to be placed in the Reserve Fund to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws known as the Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Advisory Committee)

Article 6

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ to authorize the use of a revolving fund to pay cemetery related expenses which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Burial Grounds Commission fees, such expenditures not to exceed \$16,000.00 in fiscal year 2011/2012, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Burial Grounds Commission)

Article 7

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to authorize the use of a revolving fund to pay Police Officer Detail Expenses, which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Details fees, such expenditures not to exceed \$50,000.00 in fiscal year 2011/2012, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Police Department)

Article 8

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to authorize the Stormwater Authority use of a revolving fund, which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Stormwater Authority fees, such expenditures not to exceed \$25,000.00 in fiscal year 2011/2012, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Stormwater Authority)

Article 9

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Water Commissioners to employ their Licensed Water Commissioners at Grade 1 Step 1 (**\$10.61** per hour) for standby duty and emergency work in the absence of the Superintendent in Fiscal Year 2011/2012, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Water Department)

Article 10

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Overlay Surplus Account the sum of **\$5,000.00** to be placed into the Revaluation Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Assessors)

Article 11

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sum of **\$10,000.00** to be placed in the "Repairs To Private Ways Account" to pay for repairs to private ways within West Brookfield pursuant to General Laws Chapter 40 Section 6N, the repairs to include road materials and related labor expenses only, and further, that all repairs made to private ways will be completed in strict

Article 16

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sum of **\$5,300.00** to purchase an Accuvote Vote Counting Machine; or take any other action relative thereto. (Sponsored by the Town Clerk)

Article 17

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sum of **\$10,000.00** to hire a consultant for the restoration of Rice Fountain located on the Town Common; or take any other action relative thereto. (Sponsored by the Town Common Committee)

Article 18

To see if the Town will vote to amend Chapter XII (Miscellaneous), Section 10 of the General Bylaws by deleting the entire text: “SECTION 10 A new schedule for Town Clerk’s fees in accordance with the provisions of General Laws Chapter 262, section 34, the schedule being available in the Clerk’s Office and posted on the Town Bulletin Board”; or take any other action relative thereto. (Sponsored by the Town Clerk)

Article 19

To see if the Town will vote to amend it’s General Bylaws by adding a new Chapter XVIII, Fire Department Cost Recovery Program, as follows:

Chapter XVIII Fire Department Cost Recovery Program

Section 1. Established

Due to the increased costs of responding to emergencies caused by negligent, reckless or malicious actions of owners of motor vehicles, off-road vehicles, watercraft both powered and unpowered, snowmobiles, and other powered means of transportation, the Town hereby allows the Fire Department to adopt a method to mitigate these costs known as the Fire Department Cost Recovery Program.

Section 2. Definitions

Motor vehicles: motor vehicles as defined by Mass. General Laws, as well as off-road vehicles, watercraft both powered and unpowered, snowmobiles, and other powered means of transportation

Fire Operation Services: Services performed by the Fire Department related to motor vehicle crashes, motor vehicle fires, and recovery of motor vehicles.

Responsible Party: Any individual, corporation, association, partnership, commercial entity, consortium, joint venture, government entity or other legal entity responsible for causing a public safety response which involves a response by the Fire Department.

Section 3. Scope

Whenever the Fire Department provides Fire Operation Services arising out of the negligent, deliberate, reckless or malicious actions of owners or operators of motor vehicles, the Fire Chief or designee shall send an invoice to the owner, operator, or other party or parties for the cost incurred in performing Fire Operation Services. The costs to be assessed will be all costs other than the immediate emergency response and life-saving services provided by the Fire Department. The cost of such Fire Operation Services shall be charged and payable according to the schedule established from time to time by the Board of Selectmen. In any case where a person is liable for the costs pursuant to this Bylaw, and such liability arises from that person's actions within the scope of employment, then any individual, corporation, association, partnership, commercial entity, consortium, joint venture, government entity or other legal entity employing such person shall also be liable for such costs.

Section 4. Recovery Procedures

The Fire Chief or designee shall create appropriate procedures to recover the costs of services described in this bylaw. Any person who is aggrieved by an action taken by the Fire Chief under this By-Law may, within ten days of such action, file an appeal, in writing, with the Board of Selectmen of the Town of West Brookfield (the Board). After notice the Board shall hold a hearing, after which it shall issue a decision in which it affirms, annuls or modifies the action taken by the Fire Chief, giving its reasons therefore. The Board shall send its decision to the applicant by first class mail within ten days after the hearing. The decision of the Board shall be a final administrative decision.

Section 5. Collection of Costs

Any invoices created pursuant to this bylaw must be paid within 30 days of mailing, unless there is a timely appeal filed with the Board of Selectmen. In the event of such an appeal, the invoice will be due 30 days after the Board sends its decision to the applicant. If not paid within 30 days, the Town may collect the costs by filing a complaint in a court of competent jurisdiction. This does not prevent the Town from pursuing other remedies available to recover the costs described in this bylaw.

Section 6. Liability

The recovery of costs imposed under this bylaw does not limit the liability of the Responsible Party or any other person under any other local bylaw or state or federal laws, rules or regulations.

Section 7. Regulations

The Board of Selectmen may enact regulations to carry out the provisions of this bylaw, including but not limited to billing and the collection thereof.

Section 8. Severability

If any clause, sentence, section, paragraph or part of this bylaw, or application thereof to any person or entity or circumstances, shall be for any reason adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not effect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this bylaw and the application of such provisions to other persons, entities or circumstances; and the application of such provision to other persons, entities or circumstances by such judgment shall be confined to its operation to the clause, sentence, section, paragraph, or part of this bylaw thereof directly involved in the judgment. It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that the bylaw would have been adopted had such invalid or unconstitutional provisions not have been included in this bylaw.

or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Fire Department)

Article 20

To see if the Town will vote to amend its General Bylaws by designating the Right to Farm Bylaw as Chapter XIII, designating the Automatic Sprinkler Systems Bylaw as Chapter XIV, designating the Stormwater Bylaw as Chapter XV, designating the Hazardous Materials and Waste Recovery Bylaw as Chapter XVI, and adding a new Chapter XVII, Fire Department Alarm Fees, as set forth below:

Chapter XVII, Fire Department Alarm Fees

Section 1 Definitions When used in this by-law, unless a contrary intention clearly appears, the following words shall have the following meanings:

- (a) "Central Station Operating Company": A company equipped to receive a fire alarm signal from each of its customers and which then

transmits to the West Brookfield Fire Department (FD) the location of any such alarm the central station operating company receives.

(b) "Fire Alarm System": any heat activated, smoke activated, flame energy activated or other such automatic device capable of transmitting a fire alarm signal to either a central station operating company or directly to the FD by way of a master box.

(c) "Fire Alarm System -Malfunction": The transmittal of a fire alarm to a central station operating company or directly to the FD by way of a master box which alarm is caused by improper installation of a fire alarm system, a mechanically defective fire alarm system, lack of maintenance or some other reasons that caused a fire alarm to sound even though there is no actual fire or situation that reasonably could evolve into a fire.

(d) "Fire Alarm System Owner": An individual or entity who owns the title to and/or has on his business or residential premises a fire alarm system equipped to send a fire alarm signal to a central station operating company or directly to the FD by way of a master box.

(e) "Fire Chief": The Chief of the West Brookfield Fire Department.

(f) "Master Box Owner" An individual or entity who has on his business or residential premises a fire alarm system equipped to send a fire alarm signal directly to the FD by way of a master box, which is a municipal fire alarm box.

Section 2. Connection of Fire Alarm Systems to the West Brookfield Fire Department by way of a Master Box.

(a) Before any fire alarm system is connected to the FD the master box owner shall provide the Fire Chief with the following information:

- (1) The name, address, home and work telephone numbers of the master box owner;
- (2) The street address where the master box is located;
- (3) The names, addresses and telephone numbers of the persons or businesses protected by the fire alarm system connected to the master box;

- (4) The names, addresses, home and work telephone numbers of at least two persons other than the owner who can be contacted twenty-four hours a day, who are authorized by the master box owner to respond to an alarm signal and who have access to the premises in which the master box is located; and
- (5) The name and address of the owner's insurance provided.
- (6) Such other information as the Fire Chief may require.

(b) If at the passage of this By-Law, a fire alarm system has already been connected to the FD by way of a master box, the master box owner shall comply with the requirements of this section within sixty days after the FD has sent him notice by first class mail of the requirements of this Section.

(c) If a master box owner fails to comply with this section, the Fire Chief may assess a noncriminal penalty of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

Section 3. Connection of Central Station Operating Companies to the West Brookfield Fire Department

(a) Every central station operating company which has a direct connection on or after the effective date of this By-Law to the FD shall pay the following fees: annual fee \$200.00

(b) Before any central station operating company is connected with the FD, it shall provide the Fire Chief with the following information:

- (1) The name, address and telephone numbers of the central station operating company:
- (2) The names, addresses, home and work telephone numbers of at least two persons who can be contacted twenty four hours a day, who are authorized by the central station operating company to respond to an alarm signal and who have access to the premises from where the alarm signal is emitting to the central station operating company;
- (3) The names, addresses, home and work telephone numbers, and location of the premises of each customer of the central operating company who has a fire alarm

system equipped to send a fire alarm signal to the central station operating company; and

(4) The name and address of the owner's insurance provider.

(5) Such other information as the Fire Chief may require

(c) If a central station operating company fails to comply with this section, the Fire Chief may assess a noncriminal penalty of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

Section 4. Updating Information

(a) Every master box owner and every central station operating company shall be responsible for updating the information herein required to be provided to the Fire Chief. If the information provided changes, the master box owner and the central station operating company shall provide the Fire Chief with the updated information and shall pay the fee, if any required by the By-Law.

(b) If a master box owner or a central station operating company fails to comply with this section, the Fire Chief may assess a noncriminal penalty of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

Section 5. Fire Alarm System Malfunctions

(a) If there is a fire alarm system malfunction, as defined herein, the Fire Chief may assess a fee against a fire alarm system owner for each malfunction per calendar year according to the following schedule:

(1) First through third malfunction: no charge

(2) Upon the recording of the third false alarm by the Fire Department, the Fire Chief shall notify the owner of the fire alarm system, in writing, and by certified mail, of such fact, and at that time inform the owner of the department's policy at this time.

(3) Each malfunction after the third: \$200.00

(b) Private fire alarm systems connected to the West Brookfield Fire Department by other automatic means or through a central station system shall be subject to the above conditions and penalties.

(c) Any false alarm which is a result of the failure of the property owner, occupant or their agents to notify the FD of repair, maintenance, or testing of the internal fire alarm system within the protected premises, shall cause a fee to be assessed in accordance with (1) and (2) above.

(d) For the purpose of this regulation, a false alarm shall be defined as follows:

- (1) The operation of a faulty smoke or heat detection device.
- (2) Faulty control panel or associated equipment.
- (3) Accidental operation of an automatic sprinkler system.
- (4) An action by an employee of the owner or occupant of the protected premises or a contractor employed by the owner or occupant, causing accidental activation of the internal fire alarm system.

(e) Property owners will be billed once a month for the previous month's malfunction activity. All penalties and fees assessed shall be paid to the Town Treasurer/Collector for deposit in the general fund.

(f) If the bill is not paid within thirty days, a second notice will be sent; if the bill is not paid after another thirty day period, a final notice will be sent informing the owner and/or occupant that the master box will be disconnected and the insurance company notified.

Section 6 Restrictions of Tape Dialers and Similar Automatic Telephone Devices

No fire alarm system shall be equipped with a tape dialer or similar automatic telephone device which will transmit an alarm message to any telephone lines directly to the FD. If, at the passage of this By-Law, a fire alarm system is equipped with such a tape dialer or similar automatic telephone device, the fire alarm system owner shall have sixty days, following the approval of this By-Law by the Attorney General, to disconnect such tape dialer or similar automatic telephone device. If a fire alarm system owner fails to comply with this section, the Fire Chief may assess a non-criminal penalty of fifty dollars (\$50.00).

Section 7. Appeal Procedure

Any fire alarm system owner who is aggrieved by an action taken by the Fire Chief under this By-Law may, within ten days of such action, file an appeal, in writing, with the Board of Selectmen of the Town of West Brookfield (the Board). After notice the Board shall hold a hearing, after which it shall issue a decision in which it affirms, annuls or modifies the action taken by the Fire Chief, giving its reasons therefore. The Board shall send its decision to the owner by first class mail within ten days after the hearing. The decision of the Board shall be a final administrative decision.

Section 8 Regulations and Enforcement

The Fire Chief may promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to implement this By-Law. The Fire Chief is authorized to pursue such legal action as may be necessary to enforce this By-Law. As an alternative to the non-criminal penalties provided for violation of various sections of this By-law, violation of this By-law shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$300.00.

Section 9 Deposit in the General Fund

All penalties and fees assessed herein shall be payable to the Town of West Brookfield for deposit in the General Fund.

or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Fire Department)

Article 21

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, on behalf of the Town, the real property shown on Assessor's Map 53, Block 146, located on 43 Forest Drive, consisting of approximately .24 acres, as a gift from the estate of Roland and Laurette Rouleau, said land to be used for general municipal purposes, or to take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Treasurer)

Article 22

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury **a sum of money** to purchase and install carpeting and shelving in the Merriam Gilbert Public Library; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Library Board of Trustees)

Article 23

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Road Machinery Account the sum of **\$6,000.00** to purchase a road compactor for the Highway Department; or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Highway Department)

Article 24

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury the sum of **\$150,000.00** to be used to supplement the Town’s Chapter 90 money, which is used for road construction/reconstruction and repair; or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Roads Advisory Committee, Highway Department & Board of Selectmen)

Article 25

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of **\$53,000.00** from the Water Stabilization Account to pay for engineering fees for the design of a well field and well house at Leland Road Well #2; or take any other action relative thereto.
(Sponsored by the Water Department)

Article 26

To see if the Town will vote to adopt a new Zoning Bylaw being Section 11 Back Lot Zoning Bylaw as written below:

Town of West Brookfield - Back Lot Zoning Bylaw

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this bylaw is to allow for the limited development of lots with deep back land by special permit for a single dwelling unit with less than the required frontage, in exchange for increased square footage for the purposes of preservation of open space, minimizing density in given areas, and maintaining the rural character of the town.

1.1 This bylaw does not allow for the creation of more than one back lot from a single parcel.

1.2 The creation of more than one lot shall be covered by the Subdivision Control Law.

2. Definition:

A back lot shall be defined as a lot having less than the required frontage to meet the zoning bylaw requirements but having adequate frontage on a

street to allow driveway access to the lot and having additional acreage, as set forth in this bylaw.

3. Applicability:

The provisions of this bylaw shall be applicable to any lots that pre-exist this bylaw, or lots approved by the Planning Board that are created after the enactment of this bylaw. The bylaw shall not apply to more than one lot created from a single parcel.

4. Access:

A back lot shall have at least 50 feet of frontage on a street and the access strip width to the back lot must meet the 50 foot minimum width requirement at all points from the street to the principal structure on the lot.

4.1 The access strip length shall be determined to be from the frontage to the point at which the lot width meets minimum frontage requirements for the district.

4.2 No structures shall be allowed to be constructed in the access strip.

4.3 An access driveway shall be constructed and maintained within the access strip which provides:

4.3.1 Adequate access by driveway and turn around area for emergency vehicles

4.3.2 A width of at least 15 feet with adequate drainage and culverts

4.3.3 A maximum grade of 12%

4.3.4 The access driveway must be shown on the plan and approved by the Planning Board as part of the special permit application. The Planning Board will seek recommendations from the highway superintendent, fire chief, and building inspector on the adequacy of the access drive.

5. Lot Dimensions:

The area of the back lot must be at least two times the minimum lot size requirement for the zoning district in which it is located.

5.1 The width of the lot where the principal building is to be constructed shall equal or exceed the distance normally required for street frontage in the district, and all minimum front, side and rear yard setback requirements for the district must be met.

5.2 The access strip square footage shall not be included in the minimum lot size calculation.

6. Filing Fee:

An application filing fee of \$250 will be paid by the applicant to the Town of West Brookfield at the time of application. Any additional fees including those for advertising and mailing of notices will be paid by the applicant.

7. Governing Body:

The Planning Board shall be the Special Permit Granting Authority for special permits for back lots.

8. Approval Process:

All back lot applications will be acted upon by the Planning Board only after a public hearing. The Planning Board may grant a special permit under this bylaw if it finds that all of the requirements of this bylaw are met, and further, if it finds that the criteria set forth in Section 6.44 of the Zoning Bylaw have been met to the extent applicable. Upon approval by the Planning Board, a plan showing the approved lot shall bear the statement "Approved for Back Lot Development" and will be entitled to endorsement as an "Approval Not Required" plan as provided in General Laws Chapter 41 Section 81P, and such plan will be recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

8.1 An approved back lot shall not be further divided to reduce its area or create additional lots. A notation to that effect will be included on any "Approval Not Required Plan" endorsed by the Planning Board pursuant to this Bylaw.

8.2 The special permit may contain reasonable conditions, safeguards, or limitations on use, and may require performance guarantees, as well as construction and inspection requirements.

8.3 The special permit will lapse if not exercised within two years from date of approval. "Exercised" shall be deemed to mean construction in accordance with a duly issued building permit.

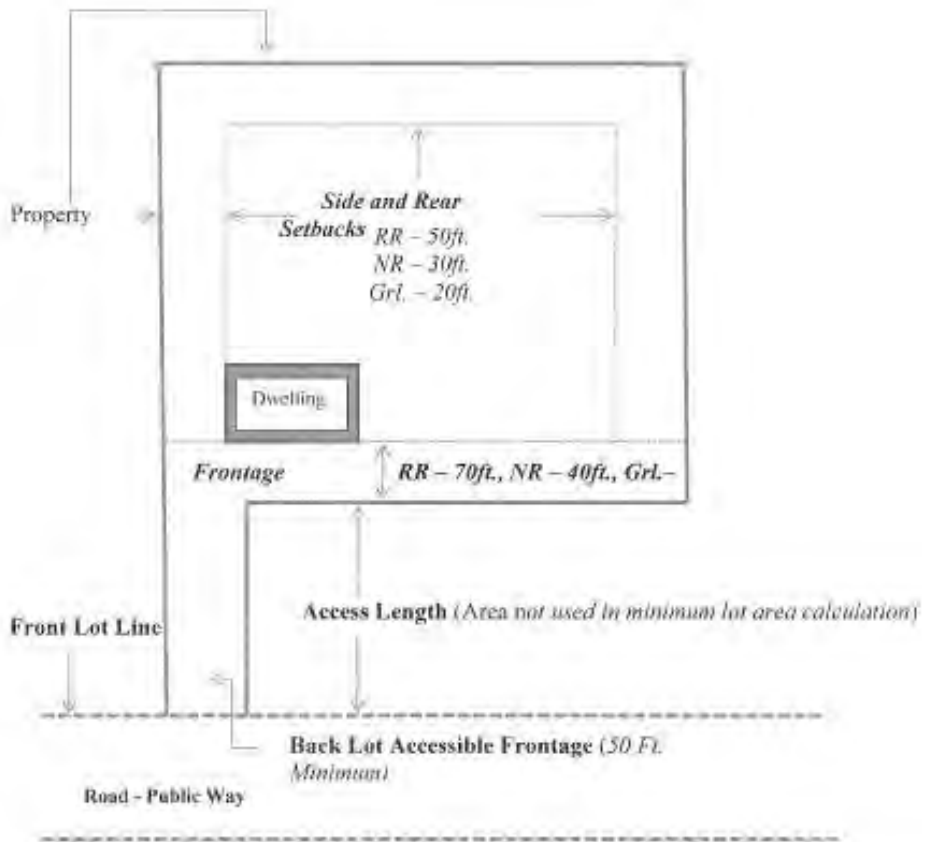
9. Restrictions:

No more than two back lots shall have contiguous frontage.

9.1 If two back lots have contiguous frontage, a twenty foot separation shall be required between the two access driveways.

9.2 The separation area between the two access driveways shall be maintained or kept a naturally occurring or planted vegetation buffer area sufficient to provide privacy between the two lots.

(Sponsored by the Planning Board)



Minimum Lot Size for Back Lot Zoning	
Rural Residential	180,000 sq.ft.
Neighborhood Residential	90,000 sq.ft.
General	

West Brookfield Back Lot Zoning Diagram

Article 27

To see if the Town will vote to approve the debt authorized by the Quaboag Regional School Committee on March 21, 2011 to be expended under the Regional School Committee's direction for the purpose of capital projects to update facilities at the West Brookfield Elementary School, including engineering, design, and other costs incidental and related thereto, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71 section 16(d) and the District Agreement for which the Town's share of the Regional School District's borrowing is estimated to be **\$700,486.00**, or take any other action related thereto.

(Sponsored by the School Committee)

Article 28

To see if the Town will vote to approve the debt authorized by the Quaboag Regional School Committee on March 21, 2011 to be expended under the Regional School Committee's direction for the purpose of capital projects to update facilities at the Quaboag Regional Middle/High School, including engineering, design, and other costs incidental and related thereto, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71 section 16(d) and the District Agreement for which the Town's share of the Regional School District's borrowing is estimated to be **\$325,750.00**, or take any other action related thereto.

(Sponsored by the School Committee)

AND you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested **copies at the BULLETIN BOARD located on the Cottage Street side of the exterior of the TOWN HALL**, in said Town, FOURTEEN (14) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doing thereon, to the Town Clerk, the time and place of meetings, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 22 day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven.

_____ A TRUE COPY. ATTEST:

Selectmen of West Brookfield

Constable
Worcester, SS

April _____, 2011 AM PM

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD by posting an attested copy of the same **on the Bulletin Board in the front entrance of the WEST BROOKFIELD TOWN HALL** fourteen (14) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Constable of WEST BROOKFIELD

**ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
WEST BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 3, 2011**

SELECTMAN

<i>3 YEARS</i>	<i>VOTE FOR ONE</i>
MARK A. LONG	243
BLANKS	53
WRITE INS	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	300

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

<i>3 YEARS</i>	<i>VOTE FOR ONE</i>
NICOLE M. VONGRATSAMY	225
BLANKS	66
WRITE INS	<u>9</u>
TOTAL	300

BOARD OF HEALTH

<i>3 YEARS</i>	<i>VOTE FOR ONE</i>
JASON PAQUETTE	227
BLANKS	70
WRITE INS	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	300

WATER COMMISSIONER

<i>3 YEARS</i>	<i>VOTE FOR ONE</i>
BARRY J. NADON, SR.	226
BLANKS	70
WRITE INS	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	300

LIBRARY TRUSTEE

<i>3 YEARS</i>	<i>VOTE FOR THREE</i>
PAUL D. SPENCER	196
VIRGINIA A. ALLEN	218
BLANKS	464
WRITE INS	22
TOTAL	900

LIZZIE ANAYA-CLADERON WON THE THIRD SEAT WITH 14 WRITE IN VOTES

COMMON COMMITTEE

<i>3 YEARS</i>	<i>VOTE FOR ONE</i>
ELISABETH E. DIMAIO	236
BLANKS	64
WRITE INS	0
TOTAL	300

PLANNING BOARD

<i>5 YEARS</i>	<i>VOTE FOR ONE</i>
WILLIAM F. MANSFIELD	233
BLANKS	66
WRITE INS	1
TOTAL	300

HOUSING AUTHORITY

<i>5 YEARS</i>	<i>VOTE FOR ONE</i>
KENNETH B. MILLER	147
BLANKS	70
WRITE INS	0
TOTAL	300

*QUABOAG REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE ELECTION IS AT LARGE*

3 YEARS YOU MAY VOTE FOR ANY FOUR CANDIDATES

The two candidates with the highest vote totals in each town will be elected

MEMBERS FROM THE TOWN OF WARREN

CLIFFORD G. FOUNTAIN	180
ANDREW SCHWENKER	132

MEMBERS FROM THE TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD

LORI LOUGHLIN	200
GINA LAVALLEE	182
BLANKS	491
WRITE INS	15
TOTAL	1200

QUABOAG REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

<i>2 YEARS</i>	<i>VOTE FOR ONE</i>
BLANKS	272
WRITE INS	28
TOTAL	300

DANIEL PARA, 7 CHARMIL DRIVE WON THE 2 YEAR SEAT WITH 23 WRITE IN VOTES.

QUESTION #1.

Shall the Town of West Brookfield be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued by the Quaboag Regional School District in order to complete capital projects to update facilities at the West Brookfield Elementary School, including engineering, design , and other costs incidental and related thereto?

YES	160
NO	127
BLANKS	13
TOTAL	300

QUESTION #2.

Shall the Town of West Brookfield be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued by the Quaboag Regional School District in order to complete capital projects to update facilities at the Quaboag Regional Middle/High School, including engineering, design , and other costs incidental and related thereto?

YES	152
NO	132
BLANKS	16
TOTAL	300

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 3, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

Barry J. Nadon, Jr. made a motion to allow the following non-voters to sit with the Board of Selectmen:

Barbara Saint Andre	Town Counsel
Johanna Barry	Executive Secretary

And to allow the following non-voters to speak:

Barbara Saint Andre	Town Counsel
Johanna Barry	Executive Secretary
Brett Kustigian	QRSD Superintendent
Joseph Scanlon	Director of Finance & Operations
Steve Bachelder	Director of Technology
Gregory Myers	QRMHS Principal
Rob Prudhomme	Kleinfelder/SEA Consultants
Carrie Lavalle	MassHighway
Jim Daley	Highway Superintendent

The motion was second and passed with majority approval.

Al Collings, Advisory Board Chairman made a small presentation on the Towns current finances.

Article 1

The Town Election.

Article 2

Voted unanimously to receive the Annual Reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

Article 3

Barry J. Nadon, Sr. made the following motion:

I move the Town vote to amend Article 3 to read: Water Commissioners FY 12 from \$350.00 each to \$400.00 each.

The motion was second and the amendment was defeated.

Voted unanimously to set the compensation paid elected Town Officers as follows:

FY12

Moderator	\$150.00
Selectmen, each member	\$1,600.00
Town Treasurer	\$28,797.65
Tax Collector	\$31,781.21
Assessors, each member	\$1,200.00
Board of Health, two members	\$800.00
Board of Health, Chairman	\$1,000.00
Town Clerk	\$26,346.00
Water Commissioners	\$350.00 each

Article 4

Voted unanimously that Article 4 be divided as follows: Part 1: Departments # 1 – 31, 32A, 32B, 33 – 52, Stormwater and Agricultural Commission and Part 2: Department # 32.

Article 4 (Part I)

Voted unanimously to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,004,493.00** and transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$226,234.85**, such sums of money as printed in the insert included in the Advisory Committee Report under Departments # 1 – 31, 32a, 32b, 33 – 52, Stormwater and Agricultural Commission to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

Article 4 (Part II)

Voted majority to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,643,902.00** to defray the expenses of the Town for the Fiscal Year 2011- 2012 as printed in the insert included in the Advisory Committee Report under Department # 32, and further to raise and appropriate an additional **\$50,000.00** to be added to the appropriation for Department #32, so that the total appropriation for Department #32 will be **\$2,693,902.00**; and to vote that any State reimbursements which result in available funds to the Quaboag Regional School District, in excess of the approved budget, shall be used to reduce the Town's assessment.

Article 5

Voted unanimously to transfer from Overlay Surplus the sum of **\$25,000.00** to be placed in the Reserve Fund to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws known as the Reserve Fund.

Article 6

Voted unanimously pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44 Section 53E ½ to authorize the use of a revolving fund to pay cemetery related expenses which

fund shall be credited with receipts from various Burial Grounds Commission fees, such expenditures not to exceed \$16,000.00 in fiscal year 2011/2012.

Article 7

Voted unanimously pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to authorize the use of a revolving fund to pay Police Officer Detail Expenses, which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Details fees, such expenditures not to exceed \$50,000.00 in fiscal year 2011/2012.

Article 8

Voted unanimously pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53E ½ to authorize the Stormwater Authority use of a revolving fund to pay stormwater related expenses, which fund shall be credited with receipts from various Stormwater Authority fees, such expenditures not to exceed \$25,000.00 in fiscal year 2011/2012.

Article 9

Voted unanimously to authorize the Water Commissioners to employ their Licensed Water Commissioners at Grade 1 Step 1 (**\$10.61** per hour) for standby duty and emergency work in the absence of the Superintendent in Fiscal Year 2011/2012.

Article 10

Voted unanimously to transfer from the Overlay Surplus Account the sum of **\$5,000.00** to be placed into the Revaluation Account.

Article 11

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 11. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval.

Voted 2/3 majority to transfer from the General Stabilization Account the sum of **\$10,000.00** to be placed in the “Repairs To Private Ways Account” to pay for repairs to private ways within West Brookfield pursuant to General Laws Chapter 40 Section 6N, the repairs to include road materials and related labor expenses only, and further, that all repairs made to private ways will be completed in strict adherence to all applicable state laws and West Brookfield bylaws.

Article 12

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 12. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval.

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$33,208.15** and transfer the sum of **\$1,791.85** from the General Stabilization Account to be placed in the Town Road Maintenance Account.

Article 13

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 13. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval.

Voted unanimously to transfer from the General Stabilization Account the sum of **\$10,000.00** to be placed into the Tax Title Expense Account.

Article 14

Lindsey Smith made the following motion: I move the Town Passover Article 14. It was second.

After discussion for and against Lindsey Smith made the following motion: move to question. It was second. **A 2/3 vote is required to move to question. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. William Jankins objected and then withdrew his objection. The motion to move to question was approved by a 2/3 vote. A standing vote was required on the motion to Passover Article 14. The vote: 31 yes and 87 no. The motion did not carry.**

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 14. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval.

The vote could not be determined and a standing vote was called for. The vote: 96 yes and 22 no.

Voted 2/3 majority to transfer from the General Stabilization Account the sum of **\$38,757.00** and transfer from the fiscal year 2011 Excess R&A School Assessment the sum of **\$46,243.00** to be used for engineering fees associated with the School Street/Route 67/Church Street Intersection Redesign Project.

Article 15

Voted majority to amend the Town's General Bylaws Chapter XII Miscellaneous, SECTION 1 by adding the following language:

“In addition to the non-criminal penalty for dogs running at large the Town may charge the following fees for loose dogs: \$25.00 pick up fee; and \$25.00 boarding fee, per day.”

Violation of this By-law for dogs running at large is subject to the following fines:

First Offense:	Warning
Second Offense:	\$50.00 loose dog fine
Third and Subsequent Offenses:	\$75.00 loose dog fine

The Town may also assess a \$25.00 fee for any dog that is not current on their rabies vaccines.

Article 16

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 16. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval.

Voted unanimously to transfer from the General Stabilization Account the sum of **\$5,300.00** to purchase an Accuvote Vote Counting Machine.

Article 17

Voted unanimously to Passover this article.

Article 18

Voted majority to amend Chapter XII (Miscellaneous), Section 10 of the General Bylaws by deleting the entire text, which currently reads: "SECTION 10 A new schedule for Town Clerk's fees in accordance with the provisions of General Laws Chapter 262, section 34, the schedule being available in the Clerk's Office and posted on the Town Bulletin Board".

Article 19

Voted majority to amend its General Bylaws by adding a new Chapter XVIII, Fire Department Cost Recovery Program, as printed in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and with the following changes:

The first sentence of Section 3 is changed to read as follows: "Whenever the Fire Department provides Fire Operation Services arising out of the operation or use of motor vehicles, the Fire Chief or designee shall send an invoice to the owner, operator, or other Responsible Party or parties for the cost incurred in performing Fire Operation Services."

Article 20

Voted majority to amend the General Bylaws by adding the chapter designations, and adding a new Chapter XVII Fire Department Alarm Fees as printed in the warrant.

Article 21

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 21. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval.

Voted unanimously to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept, on behalf of the Town, the real property shown on Assessor's Map 53, Block 146, located on 43 Forest Drive, consisting of approximately .24 acres, as a gift from the estate of Roland and Laurette Rouleau, said land to be used for general municipal purposes.

Article 22

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 22. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval.

Voted 2/3 majority to transfer from the General Stabilization Account the sum of **\$35,000.00** to purchase and install carpeting and shelving in the Merriam Gilbert Public Library.

Article 23

Voted majority to transfer from the Road Machinery Account the sum of **\$6,000.00** to purchase a road compactor for the Highway Department.

Article 24

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 24. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval.

Voted unanimously to transfer from the General Stabilization Account the sum of **\$150,000.00** to be used to supplement the Town's Chapter 90 money, which is used for road construction/reconstruction and repair.

Article 25

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 25. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval.

Voted 2/3 majority to transfer the sum of **\$53,000.00** from the Water Stabilization Account to pay for engineering fees for the design of a well field and well house at Leland Road Well #2.

Article 26

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 26. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval.

Voted 2/3 majority to amend the Zoning Bylaw by adding a new Section 11 Back Lot Zoning Bylaw as printed in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Article 27

Voted majority to disapprove Article 27, as printed in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Article 28

Voted majority to disapprove Article 28, as printed in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

A motion was made and second to dissolve the Annual Town Meeting. Voted unanimously to dissolve the meeting at 9:50 PM.

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
JUNE 21, 2011**

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of West Brookfield
****Special Town Meeting****

Worcester, SS.

To Either of the Constables of the Town of West 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 **WEST BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 89 NORTH MAIN STREET** in said **WEST BROOKFIELD** on **TUESDAY** the **TWENTY FIRST** day of **JUNE 2011**, at **7:00PM** then and there to act on the following articles:

And to allow the following non-voters to speak:

Barbara Saint Andre	Town Counsel
Johanna Barry	Executive Secretary
Brett Kustigian	QRSD Superintendent
Joseph Scanlon	Director of Finance & Operations
Steve Bachelder	Director of Technology
Gregory Myers	QRMHS Principal
Colleen Mucha	WBES Principal

The motion was second and passed with majority approval.

Article 1

Voted majority to approve the debt authorized by the Quaboag Regional School Committee on June 1, 2011 in the amount of **\$795,000**, to be expended under the Regional School Committee's direction for the purpose of capital projects to update facilities at the West Brookfield Elementary School, including engineering, design, and other costs incidental and related thereto, in accordance with General Laws chapter 71 section 16(d) and the District Agreement.

A motion was made and second to dissolve the Special Town Meeting. Voted unanimously to dissolve the meeting at 7:30 PM.

WARRANT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OCTOBER 18, 2011

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Town of West Brookfield
****Special Town Meeting****

Worcester, SS.

To Either of the Constables of the Town of West 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 **WEST BROOKFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 89 NORTH MAIN STREET** in said **WEST BROOKFIELD** on **TUESDAY** the **EIGHTEENTH** day of **OCTOBER 2011**, at **7:00PM** then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Overlay Surplus the sum of **\$25,000.00** to be deposited into the Reserve Fund to provide for

extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws known as the Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Advisory Committee)

Article 2

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash **a sum of money** to be used for the demolition costs associated with 7 Cottage Street, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Fire Department)

Article 3

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$15,000.00** to be deposited into the “Town Building Maintenance Account”, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Selectmen)

Article 4

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$235,812.00** to be used in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 90, such sums of money to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Highway Department)

Article 5

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$100,000.00** to be deposited into the “Fleet Account” or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Selectmen)

Article 6

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$11,852.00** to be deposited into the MBTE Stabilization Account, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Selectmen and Water Department)

Article 7

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash **a sum of money** to be used for costs associated with the restoration of Rice Fountain located on the Town Common, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Fire Department)

Article 8

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the “McRevey Family Conservation Restriction Acquisition Account” the sum of **\$276,000.00** to be deposited back into the “General Stabilization Account” or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Selectmen)

Article 9

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$3,000.00** to be deposited into the “Sanitary Landfill Expense Account” to be used for testing of the landfill, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Board of Health)

Article 10

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$304.40** to be deposited into the “Council On Aging Directors Account” to be used for a 1% Longevity Stipend for the Director as provided under the Employee Handbook; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Council On Aging)

Article 11

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$6,000.00** to purchase ten (10) pagers for the Fire Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Fire Department)

Article 12

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the “Fire Truck Stabilization Account” the sum of **\$40,000.00** to be used to make repairs to Engine 1, or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Fire Department)

Article 13

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$27,424.43** to be deposited into the General Highway Salaries Account to be used for highway payroll; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Selectmen)

Article 14

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$15,000.00** to be deposited into the “Tree Warden Expense Account” or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Tree Warden)

Article 15

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash a **sum of money** to pay for up to 120 sick days (per the Town’s Personnel Policy) owed to Peggy Walker, Assessors Office upon her retirement on October 1, 2011 or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Town Treasurer)

Article 16

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the General Stabilization Account the sum of **\$126,007.00** to pay for engineering fees associated with the Route 9 TIP Project; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Sponsored by the Highway Department)

AND you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies at the BULLETIN BOARD in the front entrance way of the TOWN HALL, in said Town, FOURTEEN (14) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doing thereon, to the Town Clerk, the time and place of meetings, as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 20th day of September in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven.

_____ A TRUE COPY. ATTEST:

Selectmen of West Brookfield

_____ Constable

Worcester, SS

September ___, 2011 AM PM

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the TOWN OF WEST BROOKFIELD by posting an attested copy of the same on the Bulletin Board in the front entrance of the WEST BROOKFIELD TOWN HALL fourteen (14) days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Constable of WEST BROOKFIELD

**Special Town Meeting
October 18, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM, by Sarah J. Allen, Town Clerk. A motion was made by Michael Frew to nominate (Eighteen year old) Trevor

James Brown of 59 Shea Road for the position of Moderator. The motion was second. A call for any other nomination yielded none. The meeting voted unanimously to elect Trevor James Brown, Moderator.

Voted unanimously to allow the following non-voters to sit with the Board of Selectmen:

Peter L. Mello	Town Counsel
Johanna Barry	Executive Secretary

And to allow the following non-voters to speak:

Peter Mello	Town Counsel
Johanna Barry	Executive Secretary
Jim Daley	Highway Superintendent
Paul Guertin,	Coler & Colantonio Inc

Article 1

Voted unanimously to transfer from Overlay Surplus the sum of **\$25,000.00** to be deposited into the Reserve Fund to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws known as the Reserve Fund.

Article 2

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash **\$23,238.00** to be used for the demolition costs associated with 7 Cottage Street.

Article 3

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$15,000.00** to be deposited into the "Town Building Maintenance Account".

Article 4

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$235,812.00** into the "Chapter 90Account"; to be used in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 90, such sums of money to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth.

Article 5

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$100,000.00** to be deposited into the "Fleet Account".

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 6. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval.

Article 6

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$11,852.00** to be deposited into the MBTE Stabilization Account.

Article 7

Voted unanimously to Passover this article.

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 8. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval.

Article 8

Voted unanimously to transfer from the “McRevey Family Conservation Restriction Acquisition Account” the sum of **\$276,000.00** to be deposited back into the “General Stabilization Account”.

Article 9

Voted unanimously to Passover this article.

Article 10

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$304.40** to be deposited into the “Council On Aging Directors Account” to be used for a 1% Longevity Stipend for the Director as provided under the Employee Handbook.

Article 11

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$6,000.00** to purchase ten (10) pagers for the Fire Department.

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 12. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval.

Article 12

Voted unanimously to transfer from the “Fire Truck Stabilization Account” the sum of **\$40,000.00** to be used to make repairs to Engine 1.

Article 13

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$27,424.43** to be deposited into the “General Highway Salaries Account” to be used for highway payroll.

Article 14

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$15,000.00** to be deposited into the “Tree Warden Expense Account”.

Article 15

Voted unanimously to transfer from Free Cash the sum of **\$20,304.00** to pay for up to 120 sick days (per the Town’s Personnel Policy) owed to Peggy Walker, Assessors Office upon her retirement on October 1, 2011.

A 2/3 vote is required to pass Article 16. A motion was made and second to dispense with the required secret ballot. The vote: unanimous approval.

Article 16

Voted unanimously to transfer from the General Stabilization Account the sum of **\$126,007.00** to pay for engineering fees associated with the Route 9 TIP Project.

A motion was made and second to dissolve the Special Town Meeting. Voted unanimously to dissolve the meeting at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah J. Allen, Town Clerk

TREASURER

CALENDAR YEAR END BALANCE

Balances of Cash/Investments -December 31, 2010	\$	2,447,822.80
Receipts - January 1 to December 31	\$	6,096,344.59
Interest Earned on Investments	\$	10,369.59
Transfers from Trust Fund	\$	191,306.60
Payments per Warrant	\$	<u>(7,309,146.42)</u>
	\$	1,436,697.16

CASH

Country Bank for Savings	\$	117,102.11
Country Bank for Savings - Water	\$	13,638.83
North Brookfield Savings Bank	\$	461,033.05
Century Bank & Trust	\$	139,342.77
Mass Municipal Depository Trust	\$	413,044.12
Savers Bank	\$	290,803.66
Smith Barney	\$	<u>1,732.62</u>
Total Cash/Investments - December 31, 2011	\$	1,436,697.16

STABILIZATION FUND

Balance - December 31, 2010	\$	1,665,234.78
Interest Earned	\$	36,310.71
Appropriations/Transfers	\$	<u>(126,007.00)</u>
Balance - December 31, 2011	\$	1,575,538.49

WATER STABILIZATION FUND

Balance - December 31, 2010	\$	2,153,149.33
Interest Earned	\$	46,949.78
Appropriations/Transfers	\$	<u>0.00</u>
Balance - December 31, 2011	\$	2,200,099.11

FIRE TRUCK STABILIZATION FUND

Balance - December 31, 2010	\$	251,286.44
Appropriations/Transfer	\$	(40,000.00)
Interest Earned	\$	<u>5,479.34</u>
Balance - December 31, 2011	\$	216,765.78

CONSERVATION FUNDS

Balance - December 31, 2010	\$	5,001.64
Interest Earned	\$	109.06
Expenditure	\$	<u>0.00</u>
Balance - December 31, 2011	\$	5,110.70

CURB CUT ESCROW

Balance - December 31, 2010	\$	49,898.63
Interest Earned	\$	1,088.05
Deposits	\$	1,000.00
Reimbursements	\$	<u>-2,000.00</u>
Balance - December 31, 2011	\$	49,986.68

REHAB AND SEPTIC ACCOUNT

Balance - December 31, 2010	\$	219,798.29
Interest Earned	\$	4,813.07
Participant Payments	\$	7,583.21
Participant Loan	\$	<u>-75.00</u>
Balance - December 31, 2011	\$	232,119.57

SELF INSURANCE TRUST FUND

Balance - December 31, 2010	\$	25,829.10
Interest Earned	\$	563.21
Appropriation	\$	<u>0.00</u>
Balance - December 31, 2011	\$	26,392.31

TRUST FUND BALANCES

Quaboag Park	\$	77,204.88
Pine Grove Cemetery	\$	324,638.88
Merriam-Gilbert Library	\$	188,295.94
Fairfax Fund (Ayres Monument)	\$	3,945.99
Margaret Preisach Magnante Fund	\$	32,366.26
Priscilla E. Side Fund	\$	8,973.50
Common Committee Trust	\$	2,299.58
Historical Commission Trust	\$	77,119.82
Recreation Committee	\$	8,050.76
Brady Fund	\$	81.79
Lucy Stone Birthplace Account	\$	838.85
Town Hall Interior Fund - W. Reynis	\$	31,560.90

TRUST FUND INVESTMENT INCOME

Quaboag Park	\$	1,647.54
Pine Grove Cemetery	\$	7,631.42
Merriam-Gilbert Library	\$	7,434.35
Fairfax Fund (Ayres Monument)	\$	84.21
Margaret Preisach Magnante Fund	\$	676.07
Priscilla E. Side Fund	\$	191.49
Common Committee Trust	\$	50.47
Historical Commission Trust	\$	1,576.26
Recreation Committee	\$	160.97
Brady Fund	\$	1.75
Lucy Stone Birthplace Account	\$	17.90
Town Hall Interior Fund - W. Reynis	\$	754.93

TAX TITLE

Tax Title Redemptions	\$	7,523.99
Tax Title Interest	\$	2,889.93
Recovery of Tax Title Expense and Legal Fees	\$	132.84

PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES

Quaboag on the Common	\$	10,708.00
West Brookfield Housing Authority	\$	3,591.76

INTEREST EARNED JANUARY 1, 2011 TO DECEMBER 31, 2011

General Funds	\$	10,369.59
Stabilization Funds	\$	36,310.71
Water Stabilization Funds	\$	46,949.78
Fire Truck Fund	\$	5,479.34
Conservation Funds	\$	109.06
Trust Funds	\$	20,227.36
Curb Cut Escrow	\$	1,088.05
Rehab and Septic System Account	\$	4,813.07
Self Insurance Trust Fund	\$	563.21

As in the past several years, 2011 investment income continued a downward trend due to the reduced returns on investments. However, the \$125,910 investment income for all funds is still substantial in today's interest rate environment. Much of the trust fund's portfolio of government bonds has been "called" reducing the trust fund income. The current strategy is to keep more of the trust's funds in shorter maturing investments to take advantage of rising rates of return in future years while still laddering longer-term investments for a better return.

One of our primary objectives over the past several years has been capital preservation. By complying with the town's investment policy, we have avoided potential loss of principle funds. In addition, by careful choices and changes, we have maximized general fund interest income while maintaining all cash in fully insured accounts and

the state managed Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust.

The Town of West Brookfield participates in the Medicare Part D subsidy program. In 2011, the Treasurer's office applied for and received \$1,778.74 to subsidize the health care we provide for our retirees. Applications for future years have been submitted. West Brookfield has been fortunate in that our health care costs for employees and retirees are well below most municipal employers. We have taken several steps to encourage healthier lifestyle choices in an effort to keep employees healthy and reduce utilization of health care. A core group of West Brookfield employees have been organizing exercise classes sponsored and paid for by our health insurance provider. The Town of West Brookfield has been recognized by MIIA – Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association for going “above and beyond.”

Many West Brookfield committees continue to receive generous contributions annually from the Irving and Jane England Charitable Trust. Likewise, the bequests from former Town Treasurer, Walter Reynis, for improvements to the Senior Center and Town Hall interior have been exceptionally helpful in completing both projects. It is our understanding the Reynis estate has also provided funding to the Lake Wickaboag Preservation Committee to assist with ensuring the quality of the lake for future generations. Many donations to the Lake Wickaboag Water Quality Fund have been received this past year.

The bonds for the two major school renovation and expansion projects have been paid off. In the case of the Quaboag Regional Middle/High School, the bonds were paid off early. A smaller project at the West Brookfield

Elementary School was approved by the voters to improve equipment with the latest technology. We have worked with the QRSD administration to structure the borrowings to reduce the impact on the West Brookfield tax rate.

Over the past five years the Treasurer's Office worked with the management company overseeing the Quaboag on the Common to collect past due PILOT payments. This past May the nursing home was sold to a for-profit company who will now be paying assessed real estate taxes. Having the facility placed back on the "tax rolls" allows for a more formal lien ensuring the town will always be paid going forward.

We continue to resolve many of the outstanding tax title liens by payment or foreclosure. Unfortunately, the Treasurer's Office found it necessary to submit petitions to foreclose on a number of owner occupied properties this year. It is an unpleasant undertaking but a responsibility of the position.

The Treasurer's office continues to assist the Board of Health in administering the septic system loan program. A local community bank assists with the billing and collection of quarterly payments. The loans at 5% are available to local residents with failed septic systems and meeting the income criteria.

This past year we implemented a new software system that integrates the financial process of the Tax Collector, Treasurer, Accountant, and Assessor.

Recently the Town updated the website to www.wbrookfield.com. In the future, we expect to post lists of tailings (*un-cashed checks deemed to be abandoned*) as well as other interesting information.

I believe that Town Meeting is a very important institution and wish that more citizens shared my appre-

ciation of its value, not just as a decision making body, but as our best opportunity for democratic expression. Sadly, attendance has waned over the years as our culture demands more of our time. The Town is attempting to engage citizens so that participation in Town Meeting moves to the top of more people's priority list. Your involvement twice a year, for not more than a few hours, will show that democracy by participation still works.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith R. Arsenault, Town Treasurer

Combined Balance Sheet

June 30, 2011

	General Fund 01	State Aid To Highway 13	Other Special Revenue 14	Water Fund 28	Trust & Agency Funds 82-84-85- 89	Memorandum Only
ASSETS:						
Cash & Investments	\$2,310,512.94				\$4,964,364.02	\$7,274,876.96
<i>Receivable:</i>						
Real Estate Taxes	\$245,928.58					\$245,928.58
Personal Property Taxes	\$20,737.53					\$20,737.53
Less Allowance for Abatements & Exemptions	(\$334,476.15)					(\$334,476.15)
Motor Vehicle Excise	\$125,401.30					\$125,401.30
Tax Liens Receivable	\$211,298.32					\$211,298.32
Tax Possessions Receivable	\$74,123.38					\$74,123.38
Land of Low Value	\$11,217.62					\$11,217.62
Water Rates Receivable			\$64,641.09			\$64,641.09
Special Revenue Receivable					\$10,853.55	\$10,853.55
Due from Commonwealth	\$169,901.81					\$169,901.81
Due from General Fund	\$137,429.70		\$160,316.07	\$241,193.82	\$15,306.59	\$554,246.18
Amounts Provided For				\$139,425.00		\$139,425.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,664,743.52	\$307,331.51	\$160,316.07	\$445,259.91	\$4,990,524.16	\$8,568,175.17
LIABILITIES:						
Warrants Payable	\$83,195.39					\$83,195.39
Due to Highway Fund	\$137,429.70					\$137,429.70
Due to Special Revenue	\$401,509.89					\$401,509.89
Due to Agency Fund	\$15,306.59					\$15,306.59
Other Liabilities	\$6,770.10					\$6,770.10
Tailings	\$5,051.49					\$5,051.49
Note Payable				\$139,425.00		\$139,425.00
<i>Deferred Revenue:</i>						
Property Real & Personal	(\$67,810.04)					(\$67,810.04)
Motor Vehicle Excise	\$125,401.30					\$125,401.30
Tax Liens	\$211,298.32					\$211,298.32
Tax Possession & Land of Low Value	\$85,341.00					\$85,341.00
Water Rates				\$64,641.09		\$64,641.09
Special Revenue					\$10,853.55	\$10,853.55
Commonwealth of Mass.		\$169,901.81				\$169,901.81
<i>Fund Balances:</i>						
Reserved for Encumb.	\$389,376.39		\$160,316.07			\$549,692.46
Reserved for Expend.	\$289,443.00	\$137,429.70		\$138,548.42	\$4,979,670.61	\$5,545,091.73
Undesignated	\$982,430.39			\$102,645.40		\$1,085,075.79
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	\$2,664,743.52	\$307,331.51	\$160,316.07	\$445,259.91	\$4,990,524.16	\$8,568,175.17

TREE WARDEN

The focus of the Town of West Brookfield's Shade Tree program is to provide diverse native shade trees that are safe, and offer urban/rural ecosystem services such as: aesthetics, water quality, heating and cooling amelioration, and to a certain degree, wildlife habitat. In general, most of the town's shade trees are of good health. However, there are a number of older trees that are dying and have interior stem decay that pose a hazard to public safety and risk to private property. 2011 posed some exceptional extreme weather conditions in the form of high winds, tropical storms, and wet heavy October snow that caused significant amounts of damage to our public shade trees.

This past year the town responded to the following public shade tree program needs:

- Twenty-three (23) public shade trees were planted as part of the first *Annual West Brookfield Arbor Day Tree Replacement Program*. West Brookfield's Elementary School, Highway Department and volunteers, and National Grid participated by donating and planting shade trees. The West Brookfield Selectmen officially proclaimed and endorsed the Arbor Day Celebration.
- The Town Common's shade trees dead limbs were pruned.
- Approximately 122 public shade trees were removed, and trees with dead or obstructive branches were pruned for safety purposes during Phase 2 of the Wigwam Road Reconstruction Project. Additionally,

six (6) red oak and hickory trees were planted along the road to replace trees that needed to be removed. The goal of maintaining a highly aesthetically visual corridor along Wigwam Road while reconstructing the road for safe passage and environmental standards was met.

- Twenty-six (26) large public shade trees were removed that were deemed hazardous.
- Twenty-eight (28) stumps from older public shade tree removal efforts were ground, topsoil replaced, and grass planted as remedial efforts to improve aesthetics in the downtown section of West Brookfield.
- The town's Highway Department, with assistance from local tree service contractors, responded to wind storms, tropical storms, and the October heavy wet snowstorm that caused significant public shade tree damage and prolonged loss of electricity to many sections of West Brookfield.
- A number of public shade trees had dead, dying, or obstructive limbs pruned for safety purposes.
- In the Spring-Summer of 2011, National Grid trimmed trees on all utility lines along the town's public roads. This effort did assist in removal of branches and trees that were interfering with power transmission and ultimately reduced the amount of damage to the utility lines that occurred from extreme weather that occurred this past year. We are now aware of the risk to our important infrastructure that our older public shade trees pose during extreme weather.

- A Public Shade Tree Inventory was conducted on North Main, Winter, Maple, and Sheldon Streets that identified and assessed the condition of all public shade trees, old stumps needing treatment, and tree replacement needs.
- Ninety-one (91) hazardous public shade trees were identified for removal because they were dead, dying or pose a public safety and personal property threat. A public meeting was held to discuss these trees resulting in full public support for removal. Removal is scheduled for 2012.

There is a continued need to coordinate with West Brookfield's residents, conduct public shade tree inventory, remove hazardous trees, and implement the Arbor Day celebration and tree replacement program.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim DiMaio, Tree Warden

VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICE

Massachusetts continues to be the leader in helping Veterans and their families with the state program, Chapter 115. This program gives assistance to those in need and supports them while assistance is being sought through the Veteran's Administration.

I was able to form a partnership with the West Brookfield Housing Authority and obtain housing for West Brookfield Veterans. This year, with generous contributions from donors, a Veteran's dinner was held on 10 November 2011 at the Salem Cross Inn. Special thanks to the Salem family for hosting the dinner, Adams Coney Frew American Legion Post 244 Honor Guard, and West Brookfield Executive Secretary, Johanna Barry, for making this dinner possible.



Wally Evers



Bill & Jane Dolan

I have been appointed by the Board of Selectmen to serve as Veterans' Service Officer and will strive to continue to provide services to those in need. My office is located in the Senior Center at 73 Central Street; I am available by appointment by calling (413) 218-6990.

Respectfully submitted,
S. Patrick Swain, Veterans' Service Officer

WATER DEPARTMENT

The Water Commissioners are pleased to submit the following Annual Report of the year 2011. The Water Commissioners are Robert E. Benson, Chairperson; Lester Paquette; Barry Nadon, Sr.; Superintendent Wesley Cassavant; Richard Kennan, Operator; and Jean Wrobel, Clerk/Collector. We may be reached by calling (508) 867-1421 ext. 306 or the Filtration Plant (508) 867-1412.

This year we replaced four (4) old iron pipe services that were leaking or just had bad flow. We are also more than halfway through changing our meters to the new radio read meters, if you have received a flyer please try to make arrangements to have your meter replaced, it usually takes about 15 minutes to finish.

The Leland Road Well Field Project is still moving forward we are now waiting for DEP approval, which should be in soon. Also, the building design is in the works and should be going out to bid, hopefully in February of 2012.

We continue to update our system and *thank you* for all your support. Supplying the town with quantity and quality water is our goal. We would also like to *thank* the Highway Department for their help during the year. Please call (508) 867-1412 with any questions you might have.

Respectfully submitted,
The West Brookfield Water Department

“In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited basis apply to all programs.)

To file a complaint of discrimination, write

USDA, Director

Office of Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 795-6382 (TDD).”

WHITE CHRISTMAS IN WEST BROOKFIELD

Special thanks are in order for all the members of the committee who donated both their time and energy in order to achieve the success of this year’s festivities. Once again, thanks are in order for the Cub and Boy Scouts.

Those residents within the proximity of the Common were gracious enough to decorate their homes with white lights, which added to the ambience of the day. It was great to see crowds of shoppers and families strolling along the main streets enjoying the activities.

Our celebration included:

- ✿ Three craft shows and the participation of all community churches
- ✿ Businesses opened for the duration of the day provided clients with refreshments and free raffles
- ✿ A horse-drawn wagon trotting around the common, full each trip with revelers of White Christmas
- ✿ Father Christmas and Frosty the Snowman appeared around the Town spreading good cheer
- ✿ The lighting of the town tree and our grand finale of a concert directed and performed by our local talent.

Senator Steve Brewer and Rep. Ann Gobi presented the Good Citizenship award to the family of Henry Salem. As of this writing, we have no outstanding bills.

Our 2011 White Christmas was a great success!

Respectfully submitted,

Madeline R. Arn, Chairperson

WIRING INSPECTOR

The following is a compilation of the permits received and the inspections done by the Wiring Inspector, for 2011.

- 4 New homes
- 7 Additions
- 9 Renovations
- 24 Service Upgrades
- 3 Garages, Sheds, Barns
- 1 Temporary Service
- 3 Pools and Hot Tubs
- 9 Low Voltage (burglar, fire alarm)
- 1 Photovoltaic System
- 2 Boilers
- 1 Sign
- 1 Generator

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Dunivan, Wiring Inspector

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Zoning Board of Appeals saw a significant decline in activity for 2011; granting only seven (7) Special Permits.

The Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Lower Level Conference Rooms.

The Board was represented as follows:

Chairman: Dave Broschart

Members: Kevin Dorman and Dick Aube

Alternate Members: George Hibbard and Joan Veinot

One applicant remains in litigation with the Board. Sadly, we lost our friend and colleague Richard “Dick” Aube this year. We relied on his insight and knowledge; he will be greatly missed.

The Board advises any applicants to purchase a Zoning By-Law Booklet before completing the application and submitting it to the ZBA. A letter from the Zoning Enforcement Officer stating that a Building Permit has been denied must be issued before an application can be accepted for a hearing. Applications can be obtained from the Town Clerk’s Office. The application must be signed by the Tax Collector stating that all taxes are up to date, as well as other required documents and plans. Applications are reviewed by the Board at their monthly meeting prior to scheduling a public hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Broschart, Chairman

Kevin Dorman, Member

Dick Aube, Member

George Hibbard, Alternate Member

Joan Veinot, Alternate Member

ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Regular office hours were maintained to assist the Building Inspector to expedite permit-required projects in assuring compliance to the Town of West Brookfield Zoning Bylaws. During the 2011 year, this office has taken and responded to 113 phone calls and 171 e-mail requests.

Twenty-one (21) projects were documented, and referred to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for special permit or variance.

Two property owners were fined for starting a project without a proper permit.

This office sent out over two dozen letters to property owners identifying zoning infractions and requesting that they comply with the Zoning Bylaws for the Town of West Brookfield. In most cases, these infractions were corrected immediately however, in some cases, further communication and follow up was needed, and some required working with the ZBA. There is still one that continues to be an open issue and may require further action to be taken.

A couple of issues were brought to Town Counsel for input and a decision based on interpretation of the bylaws raised during the project and/or complaint.

Cooperation and compliance with Zoning Bylaws, decisions of the Zoning Enforcement Officer, ZBA, Planning Board, and respect for neighbors is appreciated and helps to reduce the cost to the Town of West Brookfield when issues can be settled without the need for Town Counsel.

Copies of the Town of West Brookfield Zoning Bylaws are available from the Town Clerk or you may go to the town web site to view or print them.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary M. Simeone, Zoning Enforcement Officer

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