

Town of Washington
Board of Finance
March 18, 2024

Present: Members: Craig Schoon, Sally Cornell, Ted Bent, Elizabeth Fenton,
Barbara Brown

Alternates: Phyllis Allen, Patrick Horan

Selectmen: James Britton, Dean Sarjeant

Treasurer: Ashley Judson

Guest: Lorrie Rodrigue, Interim Superintendent, Nicole Grant, Director of
Finance,

Press: Ann Jamieson

Chairman Craig Schoon called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of February 26, 2024 by Barbara Brown, seconded by Phyllis Allen, and unanimously approved. Clarifications on tax collector process of new town residents.

Education Report: Lorrie Rodrigue, Interim Superintendent review highlights of the Region #12 Budget.

- New programs for learning – some mandated by the state of Connecticut
- Include .2 music teacher.
- Enhancements for security – new resource officer in the elementary school, and building enhancements.
- Dual enrollment to have our High School students get college credits – no burden on budget.
- Enrichment program in the Arts with the high school and elementary program working together.
- Some capital improvements were needed.
- 4.26% increase.
- Dean Sarjeant praised the hard work that the Lorrie Rodrigue and Nicole Grant and their team in putting forward a responsible budget.

Tax Collector: February report much better than January – it is at 98.78%,

Treasurer: - New Format. Some balances high but transfer was made to go into the secured accounts.

Selectman Report:

- Still finalizing the budget. don't have the health Insurance
- Cemetery – Discussion on getting things repaired at the Judea Cemetery – Jim said he would speak to the Highway Director. – Noted that New Preston is not a town cemetery but the town does give them money.

Financial Reports:

- Working on the EV Charger- issue with one charging port not long enough to get around another car.
- BAA meeting starting the week of March 18th. We hope to have an adjusted Grand list by the end of March or the beginning April
- Highway overtime is up because most storms have happened after hours.
- Electric for the Town Hall will be over budget because to the loan for the new sensor lights that were put in after the budget was set. Yet to be able to assess at this point if it will be a savings.
- Looking at estimate of where we stand at year end it looks like we will be taking money out of the fund balance but not as much as what was estimated.
- Board of Finance members spoke of concerns for next year budget about on Economic Development, website, and the constant barrage of emails on “whats happenings in the area”.

New Business: A motion to approve the request of the Housing Commission of \$3,300 for the balance of the feasibility study for Washington Community Housing Trust property on Baldwin Hill Road by Liz Fenton, Seconded by Craig Schoon. After much discussion the motion passed by three to two votes. Craig Schoon, Liz Fenton, Ted Bent for and Sally Cornell and Barbara Brown against.

Old Business: None

A motion to adjourn at 5:56 by Barbara Brown, seconded by Sally Cornell and unanimously approved.

Special Meeting - Presentation of Budget April 1, 2024

Next Meeting: April 15, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez
Finance Director