Town of Washington

Board of Finance

December 16, 2019

Present: Members: Michael Jackson, Craig Schoon, Ted Bent, Barbara Brown,

Matt Cane, Sally Cornell

Alternates:

Selectmen: Jim Brinton, Michelle Gorra

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Chairman Michael Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the November 18, 2019 minutes by Barbara Brown and second by Ted Bent unanimously approved. A clarification on the September 16, 2019 minutes under education report should read that the state has been paying regularly on the Ag-Stem project that the region 12 has not received funds for the students.

**Tax Collector Report:** No Comments. The tax collector adds to the suspense list each year and they are on for 15 years. There are two tax sales scheduled on tax uncollected on two properties coming up in January

**Treasurer Report:** Michael wants to make sure that our fund are at no risk in the three banks we are using. That the distribution of the funds creates no risk. National Iron is covered by the FDIC and we have letters from the others.

**Selectman**: Jim Brinton reported:

* We have a problem with some of our International trucks we purchased after the fire. There is one that we have spent close to $20,000 recently to have it breakdown again with less than 400 miles. We have held the check. We don’t have confidence in this truck. The idea is possible getting a used backup truck in case our truck goes down. There are two in Pennsylvania, Kevin Smith, highway Director would like to look at. The cost would be around $35,000. We have $125,000 in the budget for truck replacement. The town of Plymouth who has the same problem trucks are looking into a lease situation for new truck so we will be watching that to see if that may be a good option.
* There are two Tax properties that are going to auction one on Rabbit Hill Road and one on Wykehem Road. The municipality has the right to take the properties if they don’t sell. There is not much interest in Rabbit Hill Road but there is in Wykehem Road Wykehem Road is a nice piece of property. Both are just land no dwellings. If we took Wykehem we would be into it with $18,000 in tax and $4,000 in legal fees. If the town ends up with the property because of no bids the town can send it back to another auction.
* The bridge on Rabbit Hill must be replaced soon. We are going through the process of getting state grant but that might not happen in time. If the grant does not come through before we break ground, then we can’t get state funds. The engineers are following it. It has a $700,000 - $800,000 price tag. We been putting down emergency measures. The work would have to start this summer

**Financial Reports**:

* A question on Conveyance tax. The town clerk has been busy and is a little behind in getting the information to us. It will be updated in the December.
* The resident trooper contract was updated and will be less than was budgeted due to the change in his fringe benefit percentage. The budget includes all his benefits, car, health insurance, pension, and meal.

**Education**:

* The final teacher contract negotiations are going on at the central office December 17th.
* Michelle believes there 26ish out of district and 18 in district for the freshman class of the Ag-stem program. Applications for the Ag-Stem for next year are due in January
* The open house was well attended. There have been tours going on.
* The Agri Science has its own teachers. One of the teachers will also be teaching an environmental science. The Agri Science program is like an elective, the students still go to all the regular classes. STEM is being incorporated into all the classes. It has always been there but is being vamped up.
* Michelle believe they are looking to enroll the same amount of student for the upcoming year.

**Old Business:**

Nomination of Alternate to fill vacancy -There has been a suggestion of Elizabeth Fenton. Barbara Brown know her, and Michael and Sally will be interviewing here. She has be recommended by the democratic committee. Ted Bent stated that she has a stunning background.

**New Business:**

A motion to except the 2020 Calendar by Ted Bent and seconded by Michael Jackson and unanimously approved.

**A motion to adjourn at 5:32 by Ted Bent, seconded by Craig Schoon unanimously approved.**

**Next Meeting January 20, 2020 at 5:00.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez

Financial Director