

Town of Washington  
Board of Finance  
Special Meeting  
April 3, 2023

Present: Members: Craig Schoon, Matt Cain, Sally Cornell, Barbara Brown, Ted Bent

Alternates: Elizabeth Fenton, Phyllis Allen, Anthony Amato

Selectmen: James Britton, Jay Hubelbank, Dean Sarjeant

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Guest: Rebecca Rebillard, Andrew Carron, Michelle Gorra, Joan Lodsins,

Chairman Craig Schoon called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

James Britton, First Selectman Presented the 2023-2024 Budget with a power point presentation.

The Primary Budget Drivers in General Operating:

- Health Benefits after Plan Change \$45,830
- Medic Intercept Service – New Service \$81,000
- Job Changes \$91,268
  - Extra hours need in certain departments, Part Time to Full Time position and Positions that were less than 12 months in the 22-23 budget that needed to be budgeted for 12 months in the 23-24 Budget
- Staff COLA Increase 6% \$137,136

The Primary Budget Drivers in Capital:

- New Preston Falls Dam (No State Grant) \$200,000
- Solar Speed Signs \$5,000
- Pickle Ball Court (to complete 1 court) \$35,000
- LISD Engineering - Integration with Land Use \$25,000
- Senior Center Vehicle \$22,000
- Fire Marshall Vehicle \$45,000
- Building Department Vehicle \$45,000

Items that will increase our Fund Balance in the 22-23 Budget that were not expected.

- Region # 12 Schools Reimbursement \$568,657
- Building Department \$400,000+/-
- Unanticipated Tax Revenue \$375,000+/-
- Interest Rate Increase \$150,000+/-

- Below Budget Operating Expense \$100,000
- Returned to Fund Balance (expired Capital Projects) \$122,830
- Grand List Increase \$547,766(3.05%)

Over the last couple of years, we have asked to take from the Fund Balance but after the audit the fund balances has increased. We have not increased the Mil rate in 7 years. After the 2023-2024 budget the fund balance will be estimated at 6,914,952 that represents 4.0 months of expenses.

#### Questions from Board and Comment:

- Legal Litigation Account is only for active litigation.
- Conservation consultants/ Legal increase is for an intern for invasive reporting and legal help on tree ordinance.
- New committee, historic review (DOD) – expense of supplies, camera, computer and clerk. Anything built before 1960 will be reviewed. Will have a database when finished.
- Conservation of Health represents all department related to health, paramedics, etc.
- Tax income for 23-24 will be a 3.05% increase.
- Education increase 3.93%, our share is \$11,536,17.
- Grand List is \$1,299,481,680. Increase is due to new construction, and property upgrades.
- EV Charger – new one will be installed and customers will be charged. We have to calculate per kilo watt rate. Charge is 575.00 per year for software.
- COLA Was 5% in the 22-23 budget year and 6% in 23-24 Budget. The NWCOG does a salary survey each year of all surrounding towns. Our employees fall in the middle of surround towns. COLA survey done by CCM is as low as 2% but as high as 6%.
- Building Department income is doing more than expected.
- Changing Health Insurance. We are going back to MEHIP. Current Insurance was a 16.67% increase.
- Staff Appreciation and Volunteer line item is for a thank you to all volunteers. Not only our fire fighters and EMTs but also members of all commission and boards.
- Funds were put in the budget for the Firefighters and EMT's that do not live in our towns and do not receive the tax credit. Our attorney is working on our ordinance to change it so that our out of town volunteers will also be compensated for taxes.
- The Transfer Station is still going in a transition year because the compactors and the changes in recycling.
- Floor Care increase is to do a deep clean of the Town Hall and to purchase a floor cleaner to save money on future cleaning.

The public can ask questions at the Town Hearing on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

**A motion to adjourn at 5:57 by Ted Bent, seconded by Barbara Brown and unanimously approved.**

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Linda Kennedy Gomez  
Finance Director**