

Town of Washington

Board of Finance

July 19, 2021

Present: Members: Michael Jackson, Craig Schoon, Sally Cornell, Matt Cain
Alternates: Liz Fenton, Phyllis Allen
Selectmen: Jim Brinton
Treasurer: Linda McGarr
Press: Linda Zukauskas, Voices

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

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of June 21, 2021 By Phyllis Allen, seconded by Sally Cornell and unanimously approved.

Tax Collector Report: Collections did very well for the 2020-2021 year. 99.53% Collection.

Treasurer's Report: On the Treasurer Report the operating account is in a negative amount because the bank has not at 06/30/2021 has not swept the funds from the "Sweep Account". Once a day when deposits and checks clear in the checking account, the bank sweeps from the "Sweep Account" which earns interest. It will sweep the amount necessary to cover the checks that have cleared or sweeps into the account the overage in deposits. Banks are now using "Sweep Accounts" for interest instead of having interest bearing checking accounts for large amount accounts. Linda noted that the American Rescue Plan Account has been open and the funds will show up on the July Report.

Selectman:

- Several Positions are open. – Fire Marshal retired, Highway Worker. In process of interviewing Land Use Enforcer. We hired Connie Chapin for the Parks and Recreation Director.
- Part time Fire Marshall from other towns are helping out until we hire a new Fire Marshall. Not sure at this time if we will hire full or part-time. There are roughly 300 buildings that need to be inspected annual. There was talk about the possibility that we may decide to charge for the service.
- On the ARPA funds. The Board of Selectmen have a wish list for nonprofit and business and such that have been affected by COVID. The list will be vetted by the Board of Selectmen, then the Board of Finance, and then a town meeting. Some fund possible will be used to set up a comprehensive emergency shelter. Possible at the Salem Church. We will receive just over a million dollars in ARPA funds. There is no limit to each individual expenditure category. We will be vetting it through the Northwest COG to see if it is a viable expense under the ARPA guidelines. These have to be a result of the COVID pandemic. We hope to start expensing money by the fall.
- We will be getting a new resident trooper. Matt, our resident trooper received a promotion and will be moving to a new troop.
- At the transfers station a new office trailer and compactors are going to be installed.

Financial Reports: These are not the final June balances since there are still some bills outstanding. Estimate is \$820,000 will go back into the fund balance. We had budgeted \$862,934 to come out of the fund balance. Some of the reasons why is because of COVID, mild winter, parks & recreation and Senior center programs not running, Police officer not hired until June.

Education: Per Phyllis Allen she heard that they are looking for an Ag – Stem Coordinator. It was asked that Meghan Bennett come to our September meeting to report on education

Old Business: None

New Business: Wayne Hileman requested to come to the Board of Finance. Jim will speak to him about his concerns.

A motion to adjourn at 5:26 by Michael Jackson and unanimously approved.

Next Board Meeting: September 20, 2021 at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez
Finance Director