

Town of Washington  
Board of Finance  
March 21, 2022

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

Alternates: Elizabeth Fenton, Phyllis Allen

Selectmen: James Britton, Jay Hubelbank

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Guest: Megan Bennett, Region #12 Superintendent, Ashleigh Fernandez,  
Joan Lodson,

Press: Linda Zukauskas, Voices

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

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes of February 28, 2022 by Ted Bent, seconded by Barbara Brown, and unanimously approved with the change that the pension was 110% funded and not 101% funded.

**Education: Megan Bennett, Region #12 superintendent.**

- The 2022-2023 budget is \$24,810,027 with a referendum request of \$23,653,375 which is a 2.03% increase. The difference is due to revenue.
- Increases due to Payroll & Benefit is 71% of their total budget. Heating oil is up and anticipating \$2.80 per gallon. Transportation is up 3%. Original budget would have been 1 million dollars increase but with finding some efficiencies they were able to get it down to \$470,000 above last year's budget. Megan is crediting her business office for finding efficiencies. They are really trying to control their cost.
- Washington increased to \$766,476 with a net invoice of \$602,686. Washington had an increase in student percentage due to the "Reach program". The program did not run in 2020-2021 school year but did run in the 2021-2022 school year which increased student population.
- The Agri-Science program is currently over shooting its enrollment projection. Bethel was a new sending town which brings the number of sending towns to 7.
- 69 acceptance letters went out with 59 have confirmed. 85 applications. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year. The state grant pays all students in the program including Shepaug student. Unfortunately, the state pays in a year in arrears. Next year will be the 4<sup>th</sup> year but the state will pay for student that are in this year. The state has increased its allotment from \$4,200 per student to \$5,200 per student. In legislation out there right now that state may pay for the entire cost of the student so the sending towns would not have to pay. Many towns limit the number of students because of the cost. Agri-science student take regular class so we have to restrict the number of

students to what we can handle. Region #12 Agri-science anticipated income is \$1,156,652 and expenses 1,474,418.

- A sending district pays \$6,823. per student that they send
- Agri -Science educating 112 students. 18 Shepaug students got acceptance letters.
- On May 20<sup>th</sup> there will be an Agri-Science show case.
- The Agriscience has adult classes.

**Tax Collector Report:** No Report

**Treasurer Report:** No Comments A motion to approve the treasurer report by Ted Bent, seconded by Barbara Brown, and unanimously approved.

**Selectman:**

- Continue to work on the budget. Fuel is still an issue. Our rates are good until September and have not locked in yet and waiting until things calm down.
- The last couple of years will have budgeted to take funds out of the fund balance for capital project but because of COVID, increase in revenue and lower budget expense we have put money back into the fund balance instead of taking money out.
- LOCIP state funds requires a Capital Improvement plan. At the town meeting we will approve the plan. At this time, we have around \$414,000 at the state in LOCIP Funds

**Financial Reports:**

- Comparing to the budget we are doing very well.
- Comparing to last year there are significant changes especially income due to the Conveyance taxes, on time land penalties and building permits. One time increases that we will not see again.
- Maintenance is up on equipment but within budget.
- Increase in Medical Insurance from last year was due to an increase in rate and individuals on the policy.
- COLA for 2022 is 7.0%. the Board is thinking about 5%
- John Gueniat is retiring. Jeff Hammond with Edadvnce will be doing the IT work.

**New Business:** Motions;

- A Motion to approve ARPA funding not to exceed \$14,000 to purchase and stock a climate controlled mobile trailer for the use in the event of a town wide emergency was made by Barbara Brown, seconded by Ted Bent, and unanimously approved.
- A Motion to approve ARPA funding not to exceed \$21,000 to purchase and stock a storage containers traffic cones, barricades, signs, etc. to be used for community COVID vaccination and testing clinics was made by Barbara Brown, seconded by Ted Bent, and unanimously approved.
- A motion to approve the purchase the property at 92 Bee Brook Road, Washington by the Town of Washington was made by Barbara Brown, seconded by Ted Bent, and unanimously approved.

- A motion to approve to change the “Point System” for the qualification of EMT’s for the Rewards Program and tax abatement with the age requirement of 65 year not 55 years for full vesting was made by Ted Bent, seconded by Phyllis Allen, and unanimously approved.
  - Tax Abatement is \$2,000
  - Looking into a stipend for those that don’t get full advantage of the tax abatement
- A motion to amend the ordinance for Affordable Housing Fund to increase spending from \$5,000 to \$10,000 was made by Barbara Brown, seconded by Phyllis Allen, and unanimously approved.

**Old Business: None**

**A motion to adjourn at 5:50 by Ted Bent, seconded by Barbara Brown and unanimously approved.**

**Next Finance Meeting: April 18, 2022**

**Budget Presentation Meeting: April 4, 2022**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez  
Financial Administrator