

# Town of Washington

## Board of Finance

### September 20, 2021

Present: Members: Michael Jackson, Craig Schoon, Sally Cornell, Matt Cain  
Alternates: Liz Fenton, Phyllis Allen  
Selectmen: Jim Brinton, Jay Hubelbank, Dean Sarjeant  
Treasurer: Linda McGarr  
Press: Linda Zukauskas, Voices  
Guest: Megan Bennett, Region #12 Superintendent, David Hopkins

Vice Chair Craig Schoon called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes of July 19, 2021 By Phyllis Allen, seconded by Craig Schoon, and unanimously approved

**Education:** Megan Bennett reported that:

- School District is grateful for the Town of Washington for the tents for outdoor classrooms and the help, so the students could have a prom.
- They were able to keep the doors open all through COVID
- Enrollment is 769 students in the district this year compared to 688 last year.
- Washington primary school has 155 students this year compared to 115 students last year.
- Because of the increase in student a second 1<sup>st</sup> grade had been added and the classes are larger. The average sizes are 20-22 student per class
- They are operating under all CDC requirements
- Bethel joined the Shepaug Agri – Science program leaving Nonnewaug’s program. Shepaug offers more college class and is seen as more of a research center.
- State grant has increase for the Agri – Science program to \$5,200 from \$4,200 per student. This is for all Agri-Science students including Shepaug students.
- With the increase of Bethel student and the grant they have overshot the business model original set for the Agri-Science Program.
- When doing the budget this year a revenue credit was given of \$803,600 and the revenue actually is \$63,000 more than that
- Region #12 is ranked #24 in Connecticut school districts
- They hired an Agri science operation’s manager. Margie Kirk has taken the position. Her job is to operate the logistics of the program. She is looking into the network opportunities so the student can receive their agricultural hours on campus and at local farms. The students are mandated on how many hours they must so.

**Tax Collector Report:** No Comments

**Treasurer’s Report:** No Comments

**Selectman:** James Brinton, First Selectmen had discussion about the request for the ARAP funding. All requests had already been vetted by the attorney and the Board of Selectman

- HVA Culverts - Non – profit/ water/ infrastructure -\$10,000 - \$15,000 – This is for the culvert near the intersection of Cook Street and Rt. 109.
- Emergency Shelter (Salem Church)– \$100,000. It was felt the Salem Church with improvements would give the space needed for a shelter. There is a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) that spells out details on the center. It will be staff with certified train volunteers. It will be set up to be able run for 9 days uninterrupted. The church would not get a stipend for this.
- High Watch Recovery – Mental health for individual/ Essential Worker - \$5,800 – This was an emergency situation which required immediate action.
- Emergency Service Upgrade - \$250,000 – The Ambulance has outgrown their space at the fire house. A resident has made a commitment of \$250,000 plus a commitment to fundraise more funds for a facility for the Ambulance Service.
- ARAP are federal funds

The follow motions to approve the following request of American Rescue Plan Act (ARAP) fund to go to town meeting for final approval.

- A motion to approve the use of ARAP funds for HVA Culverts in the amount of \$10,000-\$15,000. Was made by Sally Cornell, seconded by Craig Schoon, and unanimously approved.
- A motion to approve the use of ARAP funds for Emergency Shelter at the Salem Church for \$100,000 with the restriction of having a 5year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with an option with a second 5year term at the Towns discretion. Was made by Craig Schoon, seconded by Liz Fenton, and approved by 2 members and 2 members abstained.
- A motion to approve the use of ARAP funds for High Watch Recovery for mental health for Individual/ Essential Workers for \$5,800 was made by Sally Cornell, seconded by Liz Fenton, and unanimously approved.
- A motion to approve the use of ARAP funds for Emergency Service Upgrade (Ambulance Headquarters) for \$250,000 was made by Craig Schoon, seconded by Sally Cornell, and unanimously approved.

**Financial Reports:** No Comments

**Old Business:** Questions

- A Fire Marshall was hired for full time
- The Charging station for the cars is currently paid by the town. A new one is being installed in the next couple of months where the customer will have to use their credit card.

**New Business:** ARAP Requested funding motions above.

Executive session was cancelled.

**A motion to adjourn at 5:49 by Phyllis Allen, seconded by Craig Schoon and unanimously approved.**

**Next Board Meeting: October 18, 2021 at 5:00.**

**Town Meeting: October, 2021**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez  
Finance Director