

Town of Washington
Board of Finance
Special Town Budget Meeting
Zoom Meeting
April 6, 2020

Present:	Members: Michael Jackson, Craig Schoon, Sally Cornell, Edward Bent, Matt Cain
Alternates:	Phyllis Allen, Elizabeth Fenton
Selectmen:	Jim Brinton, Michelle Gorra, Jay Hubelbank
Treasurer:	Linda McGarr
Guest:	Several Members of the Public zoomed into the meeting

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 by Michael Jackson.

First Selectman, Jim Brinton presented the 2020-2021 Budget with highlighted items in the Operating and Non-Recurring budget.

General Fund:

- A second constable will be added due to many requests by residents and business.
- A new employee of an Economic Development Coordinator for 28 hours per week. This has been in the works with the WEDC for some time. This position will report to the First Selectman.
- Health Insurance increase just under 11%. This may change final numbers not in.
- Map posting online is a new initiative brought in by Delisse, the assessor, that will tie her office with land use. The Town of Kent has on their website a good example of what we want to achieve.
- Tipping fee will be lower than is on the budget due us still in negotiations.

Non-Recurring:

- New fuel storage tanks and meters. The present one has water leaking into it from the top.
- Equipment refurbishment. Updating of present equipment.
- Equipment purchase: broad term for equipment needed so as to not lock into a specific piece of equipment.

- Transfer station - a complete re due is needed. \$200,000 is in the budget to start the work.
Total cost around \$350,000
- Sidewalk repairs for Titus Road to Bee Brook and Titus to 45 for the potential community center and in New Preston Village.
- Bridge Repair – We Allocated a small amount of money to Cardinal Engineering to evaluate of all our bridges. The \$300,000 will keep us on track. We presently have six bridges coming up to work on besides the ones Cardinal Engineering are looking into. Some bridges are reimbursable at 80% some are at 50% from the state. Right now, we have 1.8 million in the bridge account and putting \$300,000 in the next couple of years and with the reimbursement with the state we should be able to get things complete.
- Tony Bedini and the Building and Properties have been keeping up with things and have been proactive with all the repairs that are needed to be done.
- Emergency Communication upgrade – There are several dead zones in town. This tower upgrade will solve this issue. There is \$250,000 in the 19-20 budget and there may be a little more needed in the 21-22 budget
- New Police Boat to purchase next spring. It is 10 years old and it has a motor issue. The cost is split between Kent and Warren

The selectman met with every commission and departments. Not everyone received what they asked for.

Questions / Answers:

- Because Reg #12 has more student tuition in than they budgeted, the town has received a check for \$208,600.
- Increase in grand list is due to additional project that have been done since the revaluation.
- Fire Department decrease is due to less equipment was needed to be replace due to longer expiration dates.
- Senior Center's \$50,000 expenditure is for maps and needed info for the new senior center.
- The Emergency upgrade is for new towers
- Greenwoods Consulting gets \$3000.00 per year and is in line item - social service.
- The impact on COVID 19 – all expenses are being tract to be able to submit to FEMA.
- With this budget the town will still have in their fund balance 3.5 months of expenses.
- There is a change in the selectman assistants line item. Jeff Hammond will be working in the finance department and HR instead of a selectman assistant and Maryanne will be taking on

more hours and a part-time assistant will be hired for the afternoons when Maryanne is not there. Jeff will continue to work the same amount hours.

- Health Insurance increase is 10% but the actual numbers are to be in soon.
- Planning and Zoning Administrator position is a split position land use department
- Our state trooper is dedicated to our town only. – He does an extreme amount of administrative work. He does all investigations and all paperwork. It was asked that he be seen more in town.
- The \$330,000 on Paving and Maintenance is the State town aide grant.

A motion to adjourn at 5.36 by Michael Jackson, seconded by Barbara Brown and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez
Financial Administrator