

# Town of Washington

## Special Meeting

### April 16, 2021

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

Alternates: Phyllis Allen

Selectmen: James Britton, Jay Hubelbank

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Guest: Sheila Anson, Donna Alex, Katherine Kehoe, Daniel Kenny

James Brinton, First Selectman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

James Brinton, First Selectman reported that the Board of Assessment Appeals convene and heard 8 appeals cases and 7 of the 8 were granted. Two of the cases were involved with multi-year litigation. The Board of Selectman and the Assessor's office have been apprised of the pros and cons in staying with these ligations and had made the decision to stay with them. It was critical not only for the possible revenue but also a precedent it would set. Our attorney said we had very good standing in court. The attorney's words were that this was "Catastrophic to the town". This year's revenue in pack is almost \$70,000 and it will be over \$200,000 over the next couple of years. It is not the granting of the appellate that is concerning but how the process was done. Our attorneys feel strongly that there are some things the town will have to do but the immediate concern is to convene with the Selectman in a budget workshop and reduce the budget so there is no impact on the mil rate. A lot of details still need to be worked out. We still need to get the recording of the BAA meeting. The minutes have not been helpful. The Board of Selectmen felt it was critical to alert the Board of Finance and the potential impact. This to a great degree mitigate the legal work that was done the last two year. In the goal going forward is to mitigate as much as possible the impact on the budget and take steps so this does not happen again.

Both cases should not have been heard because they are in litigation. In speaking to one member of the BAA, Jim Brinton, First Selectman reported per one member stated that they were told by the client's attorney that the town would not settle.

Assessment holds true for five years. The Assessment values were set FMV October 1, 2018. It is against the law to change assessment based on market values. You can only change assessment if there were additions or changes at the property such as a remodel.

The large problem is that the procedures were not followed in the appeals.

The Board of Selectmen will meet a review the 2021-2022 budget to cut \$70,000 and will either have it ready for the Board of Finance meeting on Monday, April 19, 2021 or will call a special meeting of the Board of Finance.

**A motion to adjourn at 4:20 by Michael Jackson, seconded by Craig Schoon and unanimously approved.**

**Board Meeting: April 19, 2021**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez  
Finance Director