

Town of Washington

Special Meeting

April 26, 2021

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

Alternates: Phyllis Allen, Elizabeth Fenton

Selectmen: James Britton

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Guest: Leslie Anderson, Joan Lodsins, Barbara Boucher

Press: Linda Zukauskas, Voice, Lance Reynolds, Republican American,

Michael Jackson Called the meeting to order at 5:00

James Brinton, First Selectman presented a revised 2021-2022 budget for the Board of Finance approval.

- The largest change is a decrease in the Economic development coordinator hours to 28 from 35 hours. That position is presently at 28 hours. The Board of Selectmen decided to keep it the same until there was a year of tangible metrics. The goals for the year to come is to work closer with Michele Gorra to narrowly define what things fall under her umbrella so there is no redundancy with other board and commissions.
 - It was discussed that we use NWCOG Economic Development Coordinator instead of our own. Jim reported that the coordinator from the NWCOG is dealing with the whole council of government which is 14 towns and is stretch thin.
 - Ted Bent comment on Jocelyn Ayer, The NWCOG Coordinator, has been helping with a new housing initiative. Michele Gorra, Washington's coordinator has also done a lot of work for them and strongly agrees to increase her hours. As the town grows it is necessary.
 - Liz Fenton, suggested to combined with another town. Ted felt that would be too many hours.
 - Sally Cornell suggestion to use more volunteers that want to help.

- Michael Jackson asked why the pension is cut \$55,000 from the previous year. Because the defined benefit pension is 100% funded the pension committee felt comfortable lowering the contribution based the actuaries' numbers.
- Social Service increase from 4 hours to 15 hours because of need.

A Motion to approve the 2021-2022 budget for the Town hearing by Ted Bent, and seconded by Craig Schoon and unanimously approved.

A motion to open a Fund Account for the American Rescue Plan Act was approved by Ted Bent and seconded by Barbara Brown and unanimously approved

- The account will receive the funds from the federal government through the state and is restricted by the federal government. The restrictions are still not clear but can be used for COVID related expense, helping those effected by COVID, and broadband. The town allotment is \$340,000 which we will receive in two payments one this year and another next year. There is a possibility of more funds from a county distribution.

A motion to adjourn at 5:15 by Barbara Brown, seconded by Ted Bent and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez
Finance Director