

Town of Washington

Board of Finance

January 22, 2024

Minutes are subject to the Approval of the Board of Finance

Present: Members: Craig Schoon, Ted Bent, Matt Cain, Elizabeth Fenton, Sally Cornell

Alternates: Phyllis Allen, Patrick Horan

Selectmen: James Brinton, First Selectman

Treasurer: Ashley Judson

Guest: Andrew Carron

Press: Ann Jamieson

Chairman Craig Schoon called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of December 18, 2023 by Ted Bent, seconded by Elizabeth Fenton, and unanimously approved. A question was asked if the amount of housing units that the town wanted to build is state mandated? It is not state mandated but is the aspiration of the Housing Plan.

Tax Collector Report: Collection are slow but there is still time. Interest noted on the report are the interest collected on late payments in this fiscal year.

Treasurer Report:

- Point & Pay is the online system to pay your taxes or to use the parks & recreation program.
- Webster account - we may close and move into Union or Iron Bank
- Stripe pay is the collection program on the land use/ building department online program.

Selectman:

- Waiting on the Audit which is a federal audit this year to move forward on the Ambulance Building financing
- We are starting to work on the budget and meeting with department. Currently there are a lot of capital items that were just for one year.
- The state has passed a law to have automated ticketing. The signs are portable and they will read the speed and take a picture of the license plate. The fines will go to the state. It only tickets over 10 miles per hour over the speed limit. Working with other towns to see what the next move is. Top cost is about \$13,000 for one. There are warning signs prior to the actually speed sign.

Financial Reports:

- Miscellaneous income was the interest from non-recurring.
- The Pickleball courts was budget in two years
- Recycling tipping fees fluctuate. They have been as high as \$95 and as low as \$4. This is our first year with the compactors so the hauling has gone down. The Hauling has gone out to bid for the 2024-2024 budget year. The reason for All American not being able to dump at the transfer station was that they were in complete violation of the town ordinance by dumping commercial garbage. They also could not prove the garbage was not from other towns.
- Tax Rebate for Firefighters/ EMT for out of town was only three this fiscal year. There may be more next year.
- The biggest expense changes from the prior year are the education and the building department. There was a high increase for the paramedic expense.
- The mil rate will be decided when we have a good grand list after the appeals. The goal is to operate on the same income when have this year.
- The assessor will be at the April meeting which will be after the appeal process.

Education Report: Interim Superintendent has been hired for the next school year.

Old Business: None

New Business: none

A motion to move to executive session by Craig Schoon

A motion to move to regular session by Ted Bent, Seconded by Barbara Brown. No action was taken.

A motion to adjourn at 5:48 by Barbara Brown, seconded by Elizabeth Fenton, and unanimously approved.

Next meeting February 26, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez
Finance Director