

Town of Washington

Board of Finance

November 27, 2023

Minutes are subject to the Approval of the Board of Finance

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

Alternates: Anthony Amato, Patrick Horan

Selectmen: James Brinton, First Selectman

Treasurer: Ashley Judson

Guest: Joan Lodson

Press: Ann Jamieson

Chairman Craig Schoon called the meeting to order at 5:02pm. He welcomed new members to the board. Liz Fenton from alternate to a full member. Anthony Amato and Patrick Horan as alternate members.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of October 16, 2023 by Ted Bent, seconded by Barbara Brown, and unanimously approved.

Tax Collector Report: No Comments

Treasurer Report: New Treasurer, Ashley Judson was welcomed. Linda McGarr prepared the report but due to the reschedule of the meeting she was unable to be present. No comments on the report

Selectman:

- In reference to the Ambulance Building - We are working on getting the information together for the bond process. It is a 90-day process. In discussion with the architect on somethings that needed to be addressed
- It has come to our attention That we had not file in about 12 years our DEEP report that monitor the transfer station due to it being a capped land field. We have been in contact with DEEP and there has been some confusion of what needs to be filed. It was found that 30 years ago there was a close out agreement that states what form was needed. It is a 30-year test period that will expires next May.
 - Revaluation letters have gone out. There is average of 52% increase in revaluations. Jim is putting together an informational letter on the website and Friday email that will help taxpayers understand what it all means. During the 24-25 budget process we will adjust the mil rate appropriately to reflect the revaluation. There is an appeal process that will happen in March and April.

Financial Reports:

- Things are moving along. A few numbers of concern mostly electricity.
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- Signed a contract for the installation of the EV Charger. It will cost to use the EV Charger.
 - There is still talk of installing EV charges in other parts of town like in Marbledale. Do realize it is a cost of \$500.00 annually per unit for the town.
- Last year income was up due to grant money and the timing of the building department fees. The October changeover of the building department from contract to employee effected the fees.

Education Report: Minutes of the Board of Education are now distributed to the Board of Finance. There is discussion on repairing the elementary schools or build a new consolidated elementary school. All three towns must agree. Some want to maintain their elementary schools. Presentation of the education budget will be in March. If any concerns for the budget the Board of Education should be contacted sooner than later.

Old Business:

- A motion to transfer prior period interest of \$366,796.08 from Non-recurring account which represents interest income and corresponding expenses for year end 2009-2022 by Ted Bent, seconded by Liz Fenton and unanimously approved. Interest in Non-recurring cannot be used on “Capital Projects” because it is not approved by the town for a specific capital expenditure.
- Ted Bent lead discussion on the Housing Plan in which the outcome of the plan is that the town should build 30 low-income housing units by 2027. There was discussion of changing the ordinance on the conveyance tax so that the conveyance tax would go directly to the Housing Fund. Even with those funds that would not be enough to meet the goal. The Board of Selectman do not want to change the ordinance but through the budget process will increase the funding for the housing fund. That will give the taxpayers a say in what the housing fund will receive each year. For clarification The Housing Trust is different than the Housing Commission which is part of the Town. The Housing Trust is a 501c3 Non-profit that receive donations, has its own expense and owns property.

New Business:

- A motion to re-elect Craig Schoon as chairman by Ted Bent, seconded by Barbara Brown and unanimously approve.

Public Comment: No Comments

A motion to adjourn at 5:40 by Barbara Brown, seconded by Sally Cornell and unanimously approved.

Board of Finance meeting December 18, 2023 at 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez
Finance Director