

Town of Washington
Board of Finance
March 16, 2020

Present: Members: Michael Jackson, Ted Bent, Barbara Brown, Craig Schoon,
Sally Cornell, Matt Cain,
Alternates: Phyllis Allen, Elizabeth Fenton
Selectmen: Michelle Gorra
Treasurer: Linda McGarr
Guest: Nicole Grant, Director of Finance – Region #12
Alex McNaughton,

Chairman Michael Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. This meeting was held by conference call.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2020 by Barbara Brown, seconded by Ted Bent, and unanimously approved

Tax Collector Report: No Comments

Treasurer Report: Linda is thinking of moving funds from Union savings to National Iron where they have ICS coverage. Non-recurring is presently in CEDARS. Linda will confirm with Jim Britton to see what funds will be needed in the next couple of months before she makes the move. Union Savings does not have CEDARS or ICS. The ICS at National Iron is like a sweep and can move the funds to Union Savings at any time she needs to. It has the security and can be moved at anytime when needed. Interest right now is 1.49% at Union and 2% at National Iron.

Selectman: The have been working on the budget and have met with all departments and organization that received fund and are getting close to the end of the process. Michelle asked Nicole about the checks for the 2018-2019 audit which have been cut and Megan will meet with Jim Britton personally to give him the check or it will be mailed. Nicole was asked if she would have an anticipated tuition overage for this year. Nicole said she would put the numbers together. There was a little fluctuation of tuition families this week so she needs to adjust those numbers. She will also include the Agri-science money that will be in arrears that will come in between October and January of next year. These numbers are pertinent when calculating fund balance on the on the “Jack Fields” spreadsheet which helps to calculate what funds are need. The tuition numbers are higher than they ever been. The tuition to be return to the towns is around \$800,000 which is around \$400, 000 to the town of Washington.

Financial Reports: Question by Ted Bent about concern on our recycling expense will run far more than what we are aware of. The 2020-2021 will reflect this increase and work is being budget to streamline the transfer station with compactors that will save on the trucking. The Fire Marshall will be out on disability and Troy Kaiser from Litchfield will be covering one day a week. The deputy line item will be over but the Fire Marshall line item will be under which will offset the overage.

Education: Nicole Grant, Director of Finance for Region #12. The superintendent budget which was to be acted on by the board of education tonight, March 16th. The superintendent is looking for a .76% increase over last year 22,988,890. Alex McNaughton has a spreadsheet that he will e-mail that has last three years of total students, students in each town, the percentage of student to total. There is the total budget, what the budget was and is and the budget increases and the percentage increase the town shares and the town share increase. The bottom line is the total # of children at October 1st was 596. That went down by 4 students. Number of students in Washington is 285. Our % of student is 47.82% of the budget. Washington share of \$10,989,184 which is an increase \$383,278. Bridgewater population has increased by 4 Roxbury went down 14 students. Alex will send information on the referendum for the repairs. There is a list of what needs to be done and estimated cost. These are not bid number just estimates. Total amount of the referendum for the building is 4,333,212. They are looking for a 4.5-million-dollar referendum so there is a little cushion in case a bid comes in a little higher. They will most likely do a ban to start with because bonds take six months and they want to start the work this summer. They are doing a refurbishing the roof instead a replacement that will last 15 years. If they wait they may have to do a complete replacement which would be 6million dollars. The roof is \$1,735,770 others cost are the HVAC at Shepaug. They are looking to replace all that have not yet been replaced and are not part of the ag-stem project That amount is \$853,935. The referendum will be held in conjunction with the budget vote. They will be sending out information about urgency of the repairs prior to the referendum. At the Burnham school they will be replacing the slate roof that has become a danger with a metal roof. To the cost of 367500. The Booth School needs new signage and clapboard work. Shepaug new boiler and water tank. Per Michelle Gorra the first selectman from all the three towns have met with Megan Bennett to talk about the referendum and they are all in support of it.

Old Business: None

New Business: Board of Selectman will present their budget to the Board of Finance on April 6, 2020 at 5:00

A motion to adjourn at 5:31 by Ted Bent, Seconded by Phyllis Allen and unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: April 20, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez
Financial Administrator