Town of Washington

Board of Finance

**July 20, 2015**

Present: Members: Michael Jackson, Sally Cornell, Craig Schoon, Lisabeth Adam,

Jack Boyer, Barbara Brown

Alternative: Keith Templeton, Peter Arturi

Selectmen: Richard Carey

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Guest: Tony Bedini

Chairman Michael Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the June 15, 2015 meeting were approved with no changes

**Tax Collector Report:** no questions on the tax collectors report but enclosed in the Tax Collectors report was the top 10 delinquent report. Michael asked about the fact the Town of Washington is on the delinquent list. Per notes from the Tax Collector the town acquired the property which had taxes due to the town. It should not have been on the list and the Tax collector is in the process with the town attorney to take this off the delinquent list. A discussion was brought up to send the top two delinquent tax payers to the town attorney to process foreclosure which could give a message to other delinquent property owners. It was requested that the Tax Collector come to the next meeting, September 21st, to discuss the procedure handling delinquent taxpayers.

**Treasurer Report:** No question on the treasurer report

**Selectman:** First Selectman, Mark Lyon not present. Selectman Dick Carey reported that the selectman report will be respectfully brief - no report

**Financial Reports: The following Questions:**

* Income of the cell tower is being received but it was not budgeted. The town is receiving rent on the cell tower each month.
* Miscellaneous income – the majority is $34,391 from Bryan Memorial to cover Town hall repairs. Some other amounts are for reimbursements
* Other State and federal grant - over budget due to steep grant for Steep Rock bridge
* Question was asked why tax income is over budget by $504,867.47. Sometimes it is due to assessor changes. A request for the Assessor to come to the next meeting
* Health Insurance is below due partly because of an additional employee with family was budgeted but not hired.
* Yearend numbers to date show that the actual is $841,940.94 below budget
* There is still $300,000 in non-recurring for fire truck because it has not been delivered and balance will be paid at that time

**Board of Education:** Agriscience was passed but will not be final until November when all the paperwork is in. Approved for 80% reimbursement. Tony reported that the Bill that proposed a 95% has not gotten any traction so most are comfortable with the 80% number. The towns must have a referendum for the total amount of money so it will not matter at that time if it is 80% or 95%. The estimate for agrisience will be around 35 million and the redoing of science labs will be 6-7 million. The science lab repairs will only be at a 20% reimbursement. Confirmation is needed on when the referendum will happened. It will be either September or November. The new Agriscience facility will have 50% of its student coming from other town besides the three regional towns. Only the three regional towns will be paying for the construction not the non-regional towns. Non region students will be paying tuition. If we do not receive many out of town student our cost per student could be outrages. We need to understand the annual caring cost. Per Tony the theory is the first few years it will be more expensive but in the long run it should be a profit making situation. Michael request that prior to the referendum that we have an obligation to provide a dollar forecast that shows how this is supposed to work. Tony said a public relation person would be putting together the information to explain to the towns before the referendum. To Micheal would prefer someone else beside a publc relation firm that is hired by the school putting together a financial report. Michael agreed to call Patricia Consentino about this issue.

The Board of Education approved spending an amount not to exceed $220,000 for repairs. There was repairs and upgrading MS/HS lobby area including flooring, lighting upgrading, some new furniture. Lighting might be covered by a CL& P Grant. Other updates included are:

* Booth Free School – New Paving and expansion of bus loading, popcorn ceiling has been coverer, painting in many areas, the analog fire alarm system has been replaced with a digital system
* Washington Primary School – Stage floor refinished and repaired, painting in some the offices, gym, and cafeteria. Four sets of doors replaced in gym and cafeteria. New outdoor lighting and new planters to replace the gardens. A permanent metal ladder is being installed on the roof to access the library roof. The reach area is being converted to accommodate smaller children.
* Burnham – new installed windows, repainting in some classrooms, halls, and gym. Repair and replace rubber flooring that had asbestos containing cement adhering it to the stairs.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** TheSelectman has chosen anEconomic Development Consultant firm – Gorman & York Michael Jackson requested that he be on the Economic Development committee. Michael was part of the interview board and was impressed with Gorman & York. Michael wants to see how this program is going to work and how Gorman & York will coordinate everything.

The meeting was motioned to adjourn at 5:35

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez Financial Administrator