Town of Washington

Board of Finance

**October 19, 2015**

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

Jack Boyer, Ed Bent

Alternative: Keith Templeton, Peter Arturi

Selectmen: Mark Lyon, Richard Carey

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

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

**Minutes:** Minutes of the September 21, 2015 meeting were approved with no changes

**Tax Collector Report:** no questions on the tax collectors report

**Treasurer Report:** No question on the treasurer report. Only comment was on the new CD on the nonrecurring capital account at the Litchfield Bancorp that is totally collateralized like all Union Savings accounts. This was to diversify but to continue to have the same collateralization.

**Selectman:** First Selectman, Mark Lyon reported that the budget was true to form. The only accounts that might look a little out of whack would be the line items that are paid already for the full year. Michael asked about the “Performance Bond Payables” that is on the balance sheet. This represents driveway bonds and performance bonds that will be returned once the work is done.

Mark reported that the Board of Selectman has unanimously endorsed the AG-Stem Program. They have looked at the financial aspects and its ability to draw students to the school. He believes this is a good thing for the high school. It is a program that will enable us to have a good student population which will allow us to sustain a good high school program.

**Financial Reports**: A statement was made that the tax income is coming in quicker this year compared to last year. Either it is due to the point or pay or new research program in order to find delinquent taxpayers. The tax collector will be meeting with the Board of Selectman to go over the steps to be taken on the delinquent taxpayers. It may be to start the process of tax sales. This will be good for the Town to send a message to taxpayers that are late. Question about the increase of vehicle and repair in the fire department was due to annual maintenance on the vehicle.

Nonrecurring Budget Update:

* Loader was ordered and will come in under budget by $400.00
* Salt storage building is out to bid
* Wrapping up the construction season. All paving done just finishing up on curbing.

Question on up items on nonrecurring budget:

Mygatt Road project is still open due property realignment at Scoville Road.

Storm Damage Irene is still open for repairs to the Spring Hill Bridge.

**Board of Education:** Mark reported that questions on the Ag-Stem have been on the financial forecast and cost per student. Because there is already room in the core course to absorbed the additional student no additional cost. Actually the increase of students will lower the cost per pupil.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

1. AG- Stem: They are budgeting for a total 192 students coming from other towns. The funds receive will be $6,300 from towns and $3,200 from state. The stem point of view is that the math, science and the technically education is better than what they are receiving now. They will get a better education. There are 20 others schools in CT and they have been able to maintain their student counts. There has been talk about the Equine program to meet a need in the area but there needs to be more discussion. The arithmetic has not been done to know what the breakeven point. The science labs will have to been done and with the AG – Stem program more of the cost will be covered by the state. It is agreed that something needs to be done otherwise the high school will be in the same situation that the elementary school is at. Board of Finance will not take a position as a group.

**The vote will be on November 10th from 6am to 8pm for the Ag-Stem Program**

1. Pension Plan: Michael made a motion to except and endorse the resolution of authority to have Barbara Brown, Craig Schoon, and Edward Bent to be the Pension Plan committee with its authority to sign on behalf of the Town of Washington Retirement Plan, Firefighter Award program and EMT Award Program. Second by Liddy Adams and unanimously voted

The meeting was motioned to adjourn at 5.34

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez Financial Administrator