

October 15, 2007

Present:

Regular Members: Barbara Brown, Jack Field, Michael Jackson, Craig Schoon, Rex Swain

Alternates Members: John Allen

Selectmen: Mark Lyon, Richard Sears, Nicholas Solley

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Guests: Valerie Andersen, Valerie Friedman, Scott Peterson

John Allen was seated in the absence of Jack Boyer.

Treasurer: Linda McGarr reported the State's purchase of commercial paper through their Short Term Investment Fund has greatly decreased, retaining 16% that is beyond a week. Linda will forward information to Michael for review.

Tax Collector's Report: Report was reviewed. No movement has been made as yet on the foreclosed property on Revere Road.

Selectman's Report:

WCHT - Rental Subsidy: Dick Sears reported the Selectmen had approved a request in July from the Washington Community Housing Trust for \$1,500 to supplement rental payments for Seniors. Michael reported he had spoken with the Chairman and requested the WCHT provide financial reports on their three properties, as has been the Board's procedure for outside entities requesting Town funds. He felt it was the sense of the Board that the original subsidy of \$25,000 approved in 2001 had been established to assist those who had been Washington residents prior to renting at the Senior housing on River Road. He had requested verification of this also. The Board agreed this information should be provided to the Board of Selectmen on an annual basis. Once the information is received, the Selectmen could determine if it should be presented at a town meeting or in an ex-budget appropriation were appropriate. **John Allen made a motion to advance the \$1,500 as requested, but that additional funding would not be available until the financial information has been presented to the Board. Craig Schoon seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed.** Valerie Andersen suggested the WCHT investigate grant funding that might be available.

Ex-Budget: Cell Tower: Dick reported an additional invoice for \$4,430.21 for legal expenses had been received following the last Board of Finance meeting. Total expenses have included \$4,721 for engineering, \$189 for miscellaneous costs and \$14,358 for attorney's fees. Some Board members questioned the actual need for these expenses as the tower was not to be located on town property. Dick felt this review was necessary as he did not feel he could speak for the Town on this issue and was unsure how the Town would react. It was suggested an agreement should be reached regarding legal costs for an issue such as this in the future. Dick will confer with the attorney to request a reduction of the remaining fee of \$4,430.21 owed. **Michael Jackson made a motion to appropriate an ex-budget amount not to exceed \$4,400 for this purpose, with the intention that this fee may be reduced following Dick's discussion with the lawyer. Craig Schoon seconded the motion. John Allen abstained. Motion passed.** Dick will report at the next meeting.

Used Oil Burning: This matter was tabled until the 2008-09 budget is addressed.

Financials: Financial were reviewed and accepted.

Pension Committee: The Pension Committee will meet on October 29th at 5 p.m. to review of the Town Employees Pension Fund.

Education: (Note: Jack Field's update on the School Building issues had been attached to the previous minutes.) Jack reported the Board of Education remains committed to presenting two alternatives of construction to the public, i.e. the best single project and the best three-school project. The anticipated target date for a referendum on this item will be rescheduled to allow new B/Ed and Building Committee members to update themselves on the issues. He reported the B/Ed had voted to proceed with the understanding that there would be no reimbursements.

The renewal of the three leases is also being discussed, as all have expired. These leases most likely will differ from the prior leases of \$1/year in that the towns would like a more definitive way to control maintenance expenses on the three buildings. A Committee comprised of a member from each town is currently proposed, with a single vote from each Town. This Committee would meet prior to the beginning of the budget cycle to prepare a list of ongoing maintenance items to be included in the next B/Ed budget. Jack did not feel the proposed set up of this Committee would be in our Town's best interest. He suggested individual agreements be made with each town as the interests of the three towns are too different and difficult, and Washington would be responsible for 45% of the costs, while only having one vote. Dick Sears reported the Board of Selectmen will meet with Town Counsel to review the lease. Jack also noted if renovations are made to the WPS, State reimbursement would not be available since the State Department of Education discourages making investments in public buildings in floodplains.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gollow, Secretary