

April 14, 2008

Present: Regular Members: Jack Boyer, Barbara Brown, Jack Field, Michael Jackson, Craig Schoon,

Alternates Members: John Allen, Arthur DuBois

Selectman: Mark Lyon

Guests: Washington Community Housing Trust - R. William Fairbairn

Gunn Library & Museum: Jean Chapin, Director
Steven Haas, President of the Board
Tyler Smith, Finance Comm. Chairman

Washington Volunteer Fire Co.:
Duncan Woodruff, Chief
Brian Ohmen, Ass't. Chief
Mike DiFronzo, Ass't. Chief
Darryl Wright, Ass't Chief

Washington Community Housing Trust: A request for continuation of the rental subsidy approved in the 2001-2002 Town's Capital Budget for \$25,000 to provide rental assistance for seniors at the Riverwoods Senior housing site and discussion of the long-term outlook of the WCHT three sites was discussed. Jack Boyer recused himself on this issue as a member of the Housing Trust.

Bill Fairbairn reported Seniors provide proof of their capabilities to meet rental expenses at the time of their application for housing. However, in some cases these financial situations may change over time for a variety of reasons and they find themselves no longer able to pay the full rent. A rental cap of 30% of income is allowed to be charged. Only two increases have been requested over sixteen years of less than 5%. Currently, there are three seniors in need of assistance. The Board discussed this in conjunction with the overall long-term financial responsibilities of the WCHT of their three sites. It was felt that further financial information was required in order to get a sense of the overall financial situation. As soon as this is available, it will be provided to the Board. The Board of Selectmen recommended approval of the subsidy for \$25,000, which will be considered further for inclusion in the forthcoming 2008-2009 capital budget.

Gunn Memorial Library and Museum: Discussion was held as to why the Library and Museum were not fully supported by the Town. It was reported that as a matter of tradition it had always been a private library. The majority of income had been derived from fundraising and the Library's endowment. The Town had initially become involved when renovations to the library were made in order to qualify for certain federal and state funds. The fiscally conservative trustees continue to work hard at fundraising to put as little burden as possible on the Town. They are concerned about growing expenses and maintaining future trustees who will work as diligently as they have in the past. It was noted that a suggestion had been made at a prior town meeting that a representative from the Town be seated on the Library Board. It was the feeling of the Finance Board that the Town seems well represented by the current Library's Board of Trustees. A 3% increase has been requested. The Board complimented the Library on their continued efforts and the many benefits they provide to the residents of the Town.

Washington Volunteer Fire Co.: Duncan Woodruff, Fire Chief, presented complete information on the Fire Company's 2008-09 General Fund and Capital Fund requests (attached), as well as FEMA grants for which they had applied over the past years. Discussion was held on their Awards Programs, which allow

for annual contributions to a fund for meeting qualifications for attendance at fires, drills and meetings, as well as a \$1,000 tax reduction if the requirements are met. Brian Ohmen noted his concern over the costs involved to the firemen with meeting the increased number of calls, cost of vehicle fuel, and time spent away from their regular employment. Michael suggested further discussion on a pay/call basis might be considered at some point with further discussion with the Selectmen. The Board noted their appreciation of the Fire Company's continued efforts on behalf of the Town.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gollow, Secretary