

# May 20, 2002

Chairman Michael Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

**Present:**

**Board:** Jack Boyer, Jack Field, Robin Hirschfield, Michael Jackson, Craig Schoon, and Rex Swain

**Alternates:** Liddy Adams, Barbara Brown, and Mark Lyon

**Press:** Brian Pontolillo, Voices

**Guests:** Valerie Friedman

**Minutes:** Jack Field moved to approve the minutes of the April 15th and 23rd minutes as submitted. Rex Swain seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

**Town Website:** Rex Swain has continued to update the Town website ([washingtonct.org](http://washingtonct.org)) and has prompted town offices to provide information on a regular basis. The Board noted their appreciation of his efforts and the Press was asked to get this information to the public. He has asked that referendum results be forwarded to him for inclusion.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and accepted as submitted.

**Tax Collector's Report:** The Tax Collector's Report was reviewed and accepted as submitted. The differences between the Treasurer's Report and the Income Report on tax receipts will be provided for the next meeting.

**Monthly Financials:** The Fire and Ambulance Tax Abatement will become effective this July. Eleven EMT's and 24 firefighters have qualified, and the Board noted their appreciation of these volunteers. Although this would equate to \$35,000, it will actually reduce the income from taxes by approximately \$32,000 next year since there were three volunteers who qualified for both departments but are only allowed a maximum of \$1,000. An unanticipated surplus of approximately \$270,000 was noted in the Nonrecurring Capital account over the past year. This is due to interest income received, insurance reimbursements, LoCIP and Historic Preservation grants and the sale of a pickup truck.

**Titus Road Town Garage Site:** Discussion was held about the future of this site. It was suggested the existing metal building may have a salvage value. The area is currently used to store materials. Recommendations for the site most likely will be included upon completion of the Revised Plan of Conservation and Development. Elaine Luckey is planning to meet with State D.E.P. officials in the near future to discuss putting the salt abatement issue behind us.

**Future Budget Assumptions:** Concern over maintaining a realistic and steady mill rate while planning for future years again was discussed. State figures indicate the trend will continue with Washington's student population decreasing. It was felt the Town seems to be currently well funded in the capital account and it was felt it was prudent to have a cushion, but not more than actually needed. However, new buildings at the elementary school level could have a big effect on future budgets, as well as capital items for the Town. It was also noted the Plan of Conservation and Development will be completed by the end of the year. This will most likely include items for consideration for Town expenditures, including open space, buildings, housing, etc. These will all but add additional pressure on where funds should be spent and future mill rates of the Town.

**Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee:** Recent correspondence was received from the Connecticut General Assembly regarding their recent vote to undertake a study of Regional School District Governance. This committee will evaluate the efficiency, effectiveness, and statutory

compliance of selected state agencies and programs, recommending remedies where needed. The study will also evaluate the impact of the current statutory formula apportioning the local share of Education costs among towns that belong to regional school districts and how regional districts are governed by examining their statutory authority and their relationship to local legislative bodies and the State Department of Education. As part of the study, the committee intends to conduct interviews with board members, superintendents, chief elected officials and local board of finance members, as well as through a survey.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Gollow  
Secretary