

# June 20, 2011

*The following minutes of the Board of Finance are submitted subject to approval at the next Board of Finance meeting.*

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

**Present:**

Members: Michael Jackson, Jack Boyer, Gary Fitzherbert

Alternates: Liddy Adams, A. J. DuBois, Keith Templeton

Selectmen: Mark Lyon

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Guests: Tony Bedini - Region 12 Board of Education, Richard Sears , Washington Community Housing Trust

Chairman Michael Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Alternates Liddy Adams, A. J. Dubois and Keith Templeton were seated in the absence of regular members Barbara Brown, Craig Schoon and Rex Swain.

**Minutes:**

The Board accepted the Minutes of the 5/16/11 and 5/19/11 meetings as submitted.

**Tax Collector's Report:**

Accepted as submitted. 98.3% of the current taxes have been collected.

**Education:**

Tony Bedini updated the Board on the elementary school buildings. New windows will be installed shortly and it is anticipated this project will come in under budget. It had been the intent to upgrade the primary schools to a level where the towns would be willing to take back the buildings if the schools were consolidated or classes moved to the high school building. Tony noted more repair work has been done than anticipated; and through the efforts of the architect and project manager, this has turned out very well and is of very good quality. Michael Jackson noted the Finance Board has a fiduciary responsibility to insure the conditions of the schools be maintained in the condition in which they were leased to the Region; and he appreciated the attention to these physical assets. Funds are included also in the 2011-12 Education budget for a study of the middle-high school building Gary Fitzherbert suggested a strategic plan be considered to address the many issues of education, economics and the future of the Region. He felt a long-range strategic plan is needed that would include not only the decreasing population but the most efficient utilization of space. Future teaching methods and technology that may require a different type of space should also be considered for future planning. Time must be spent on where Education will be in the next ten years in an effort to waste. He felt if this is not done, we will be making a mistake and wasting not only money but the children's education, as well. The Board agreed that both issues must be dealt with at the same time.

**Ex-Budget Appropriation:**

Mark reported the First Selectmen of the three towns went to the Board of Education and offered to complete the funding toward a long-range planning consultant for the Region. It was anticipated that \$5,000 from each town would be adequate. The Board agreed that the continued involvement with the School Board was in the best interest of all. Michael Jackson moved that an ex-budget appropriation of \$5,000. be approved for consultant costs toward this long-range planning consultant for Region 12 be approved. Jack Boyer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

**Town Budget:**

Mark reported General Fund expenses are in-line as anticipated, except for the Winter Maintenance budget due to the many storms over the winter. This had been addressed at the town meeting. State funding has been received as anticipated. Town Aid Road funds have not been spent and have been budgeted to be used for future road projects.

**Accounting Project:**

The Town's current accounting programs are being reviewed for upgrading. Software representatives have been consulted, as well as an upgrade to the Quick Books program that is currently used. It was recognized various software programs could provide access to Human Resources, payroll and GASB-related requirements, but would also be more expensive. Mark will pursue further information and prices on the various software programs, as well as hardware costs, for the next meeting.

**Washington Community Housing Trust:**

As the newly-elected Chairman of the Washington Community Housing Trust, Richard Sears reported the WCHT are entering a new phase of their history. They have hired a new management group and accountant to oversee their three housing projects. Dick provided their most recent audit to the Board and outlined the basics of the three housing locations at Dodge Farm, Riverwood and Church Street . He felt the new management system will benefit them greatly.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Gollow  
Finance Secretary