Town of Washington

Board of Finance

**April 11, 2016**

Present: Members: Michael Jackson, Craig Schoon,

Barbara Brown, Ted Bent

Alternates: Phyllis Allen

Selectmen: Mark Lyon, Jay Hubelbank

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Selectman Mark Lyon Present the budget

* Education budget is up $415,588 which is the new amended budget number
* Our Municipal budget is up 2.23%
* Wage increase of $40,500 overall.
  + 2% wage increase,
  + substantial increase in permanent part time employees. It has been a problem getting people to work here because we were not competitive.
  + Some increases is due to more responsibility of employee
* Assessor increase is largely due to computer software increase, online backup, personal property
* Tax Collector increase is also computer software.
* Registrar increase in new certification required by state., increase for the primary
* Liability Insurance is a 7% increase which is a 3 year agreement.
* Fire Insurance up due to update of value of equipment
* Health Insurance – going from Healthy CT to Anthem Deductible coverage stay the same
* Public Safety – increase in Lake Patrols, Rocky Tomlinson initiated a new emergency program
* Fire Marshal – increase from 24 to 35 Hours a week. Second year of request. Based on inspection required annually. 24 hour is not enough hours. We hope that the Deputy would do more but that has not happen. The Deputy number is going down. The Fire Marshall has to inspect, report and re-inspect when not complaint. Over 400 buildings he needs to inspect each year. Salary and benefits is an increase of $36,000. We have had problem finding a deputy. Item the Board of Finance felt needed to be reviewed
* Fire Department is there equipment repair & maintenance. The bulk is new tires. New tires every 6 to 10 years. Item the Board of Finance felt needed to be reviewed
* Police is the state contract. It is at 85%
* Highway Maintenance increase for tree work. Item the Board of Finance felt needed to be reviewed Can’t keep up on tree work. This is contract service. Item Highway crew picks the trees. The tree Warden gets involved if there is an issue
* Gunn Library – is at $167,000. Phyllis Allen was appointed a new member of the board of the library. This was a request of the selectman to have a member of the finance committee on their board.
* Pension recommendation was to keep the same. The other number is the contribution to the 401 which includes the Tax Collector, Assessor, and Fire Marshal.
* Parks & Rec. Grounds keeper and Boat attendant will be adjusted. Not a large savings
* On Senior Center increase in electric/ grease trap and cable.

Non- Recurring Capital Budget

* Fire Department
  + New Dry Hydrant - which in the past had a grant
  + Radio – replacement aged pagers.
  + IT Computers for trucks with emergency management software
  + Air Bags
* Highway Department
  + Over the Fence Mower cost around $125,000
  + Replacement of Dump Truck – not a good truck to put off a year.
  + Pickup truck is rusting
  + Equipment Refurbishing – refurbish equipment each year
* Bridge repair was lower because $280,000 is coming back from when it was borrowed for the Garage fire.
* Guardrails – enough to get it started.
* Sidewalk repair is up at the green. They are heaved and broken up and a liability.
* Depot Enhancement has a grant for $500,000. It is a match grant.
* Repairs to the transfers . Will have to hire an engineer. It will be paid out of the recycling account
* Repairs on the Town Hall, Front stairs, tiles on downstairs, Cupola repairs, and New lettering.
  + The stairs need to be redone because of the bubbling and cracking. Contractor split cost.
* Replacement of Waramaug valve
* Engineering of Dam action plan.
* Facility Dude is an emergency management plan. – Cloud software so all emergency management can access it.
* Senior center study possible senior / community center.
* Large Format Map scan and upgrade to digitized Mylar copies for Assessor

Mark stated anything cut at this point would be pushing needed items down the line.

Per Chairman, Michael Jackson. Not comfortable with one mil rate increase. An acceptable deficient is $300,000. The school budget will continue to be an issue.

Mark stated he felt that this municipal budget was responsible. To not be able to do what we need to as a municipality for our citizen because of our education budget that we don’t have any control over is irresponsible.

Michael requested to go into executive session to talk about the mil rate but Mark informed him that is not possible.

The board requested that the selectmen lower the budget by around $300,000. Request the Selectman to look at the line items previously mention to be reviewed.

The meeting was motioned to adjourn at 6:15

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez Financial Administrator