Town of Washington

Board of Finance

March 19, 2018

Present: Members: Michael Jackson, Ted Bent, Barbara Brown, Craig Schoon, Sally Cornell

Alternates: Keith Templeton, Phyllis Allen, Matt Cain

Selectmen: Mark Lyon, David Werkhoven

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

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

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2018 and April 12, 2018 by Ted Bent, seconded by Barbara Brown, and unanimously approved with the following changes to the March 19, 2018 minutes.

* The attorney that the Board of Finance was to hire for an opinion on the ag-stem was to be an attorney not from the area
* Under education - to reiterate that the Board of Finance has no power over the Board of Education

In reference to the petition that was received by the Board of Selectman there will be no Town Meeting that was requested on the petition. Bridgewater and Washington are not having a town meeting but a question was asked if Roxbury was going to. Mark was not sure. The information requested by the petition is information that needs to come from the Board of Education.

**Tax Collector Report: No Comments**

**Treasurer Report:** There was a CD to rollover and Union Savings did not give a good rate so the CD was opened at Litchfield Bancorp at 2%

**Selectman:**

* Most items are at 75%
* First Selectman, Mark Lyon reported the winter maintenance is over budget. There are a few more salt bills in April. Salt is at 104% of budget but total Highway budget is at 72%.
* Comments on the need for a better Senior Center. Surrounding towns have nice centers that are inviting and directors that are creating many new programs. There is a need for new programs. It was suggested that a review of the other towns be done by our director to see how we can improve.

**Financial Reports**: Comment on Interest Income is up due to CD coming due and also interest rates are higher.

**Education:** The Ag-Stem project is moving forward they have been having meetings at land use for permits. Parks & Rec will not be using the school for summer programs due to the construction.

**Old Business:**

* Michael did speak to Attorney John Maloney at Shipman & Goodwin. He has not worked with Region #12 but someone in there firm has. The Board of Finance was looking for an opinion if the Board of Finance has any legal rights on the Ag-Stem issue and what happens on the “claw back”. As for the “claw back” Michael stated that as long as the buildings are in use by the region there is no issue that the state would claw back the money. On an opinion on the Board of Finance rights/ power over the Board of Education is already know, they have no rights and opinion is not necessary. A motion was made by Ted Bent and seconded by Barbara Brown and unanimously approved that they would not hire a lawyer for this matter. The question was brought up about did they need an opinion on whether there should be a new referendum but the board of education has already done their due diligence on this and received a legal opinion.
* On 2018-2019 budget – no one had any question. The dam and Spring Hill expenditures are in the budget. The overage of expenses over Income will come out of the Fund Balance. They predict no increase in the mil rate.

**New Business:**

* Craig, Barbara and Ted have been working on a memorandum on the Ag- Stem Program. The Memorandum is to analysis the impact of the Ag-Stem program on the regions. It willl show the range of possibilities. The Board of Finance want the taxpayers to know all the information about the Ag-Stem Program. Craig will fine tune the memorandum and forward to the Board of Finance for review and will discuss at next meeting. They will then supply the information to the taxpayers. The committee used the Ag-stem material supplied by the Board of Education for the memorandum. The numbers with the projections of 139 and with a minimum of 102. Even with the optimistic projection of 139 students there is a loss is a couple million over 20 years. If 102 students it will be 9 million over 20 years.
* A motion to appoint Charles Heaven & Co. for the 2017-2018 fiscal year audit was made by Michael Jackson and second by Barbara Brown and unanimously approved.

**A motion to adjourn at 5:35 by Barbara Brown and Seconded by Ted Bent and unanimously approved.**

**Next Meeting: May 21, 2018**

**Important Dates: Town Hearing May 3, 2018, Town Meeting May 17, 2018**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez Financial Administrator