Town of Washington

Board of Finance

December 19, 2016

Present: Members: Michael Jackson, Craig Schoon, Jack Boyer, Sally Cornell, Barbara Brown, Liddy Adams

 Alternates: Keith Templeton

 Selectmen: Mark Lyon. David Werkhoven

 Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Chairman Michael Jackson called the meeting to order at 5.00 p.m.

**Minutes:** Minutes unanimously approved. There was discussion on the AgStem. Please see comments below in education section.

**Tax Collector Report:** No comments

**Treasurer Report:** No Comments

**Selectman:** Everything looks good and is inline.

Parks & Recreation is over but that will come into line by the year end.

 Election expense did well. It will have more future expenses due to the audit.

 Washington was chosen to do the new experimental computerized audit per the state request. The Town of Washington numbers came out perfect. Great Job!

 We have started the budget process for next year.

We have been reimbursed for all expenses in relations to the Gilmore Girls. They are in talks about doing it next year.

**Financial Reports**:

Question on the Depot renovation: It is in the final stages of design and should be torn up next summer

**Education:** Discussion on AgStem

 **Questions:** What is the reimbursement rate? No definitive answer as of yet

 What happens if the program fails? How much is paid back? Is it pro-rated

 Has the plan changed with new enrollment?

 Is the bottom line the same? Is it still going to work the same in the long term?

 Should there be another referendum if things change?

 The towns voted to spend 10 million in taxpayers’ money. If the financial picture changes should there be another referendum?

 Michael will ask town council for a legal opinion if there should be a new referendum.

 Everything is conjecture at this point.

 Board of Selectman is waiting to hear all the facts before they make a decision on how they feel about the AgStem program.

 **Presentation of Business Plan by the Board of Education: January 3, 2017, 7:00pm at Shepaug**

There was question about the legal ruling on state ECS fund not going to wealthier towns. The ruling was to send more money to lower performing school districts. Our grant has dropped significantly in the past two year.

**New Business:** Michael Jackson made a motion to approve the 2017 Board of finance calendar, second by Barbara Brown, Unanimously approved

**Old Business:** None

**A motion to adjourn at 5:26 by Michael Jackson, and unanimously approved.**

**Next Meeting: January 23, 2017**

 Respectfully submitted,

 Linda Kennedy Gomez Financial Administrator