Town of Washington

Board of Finance

*January 28, 2019*

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

Alternates: Keith Templeton

Selectmen: Dave Werkhoven

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Guest: Michelle Gorra

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

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the December 17, 2018 minutes by Barbara Brown, second by Liddy Adams unanimously approved.

**Tax Collector Report:** No Comments on report. Sally Cornell stated that she had spoken to Donna Alex, Tax Collector and that payments were slow coming in this month. It is wonder if the Federal shutdown had any effect on it.

**Treasurer Report:** No Comments on report. Linda McGarr, Treasurer stated that she had spoken to all the banks that the town currently has CD’s with and requested for an increase in the interest rate. The have all obliged.

**Selectman:** Dave Werkhoven stated that everything is going well. Snow budget good so far.

**Financial Reports**: All goods good.

* There is large amount in the comparison of the two town fiscal years in tax revenue, This is due to the timing of taxpayers paying their taxes early due to the tax law change last year.
* After Region #12 audit, they had an overage in their fund balance and has returned the fund balance of $164,369.
* Resident Trooper’s fees are billed once a year at the end of the fiscal year. It should be below budget due to the change in personnel.

**Education:** Michelle Gorra Reported:

* Audit is complete and had a clean bill of health.
* There was an overage which is returned to the towns as noted above.
* The overage was due in part to the overage in tuition students. The budget was for $250,000 but received $500,000 in tuition funds.
* Tuition varies per school age.
* The policy with tuition students is that the school will never take more student that would require the region to hire staff. Tuition student fill empty seats. No additional cost to the district.
* Most tuition students come from New Milford and Woodbury.
* 74 Applications were received for the Ag-Science program. The goal is to except 45 students.
* 20 students that applied are Region #12 student. It is unsure how many they will take to keep the ratios in line for the sending towns.
* Paperwork is getting ready for the bond. Rates are looking good. They are looking at several financing option and have chosen to go forward with a debt level so that the debt service payments would not be higher than what is currently being paid. So no increase for the construction.
* Budget workshops are schedule for February 6th, 12th, 13th at 3:00-5:30 at the central office.
* A question was asked what the ratio of staff to student is. Michelle would get back with that information.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** motion to approve an appropriation of $16,482 to the Pension Expense for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 was made by Barbara Brown, seconded by Ted Bent and unanimously approved. The reason for the overage was due in part because of several changes in the plans that were not budgeted for.

* Change in GASB rules for the Fire Fighter/ EMT awards programs – additional expense for legal fee to change plan.
* On the defined – Contribution Plan – Due to an eligibility date error on the original plan extra Legal fee and contribution had occurred.
* Additional Pension Consultants fees

**A motion to adjourn at 5:37 by Barbara Brown, seconded by Michael Jackson, and unanimously approved.**

**Next Meeting: February 25, 2019**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez

Financial Administrator