Town of Washington

Board of Finance

**June 20, 2016**

Present: Members: Michael Jackson, Craig Schoon, Elizabeth Adams, Sally Cornell, Barbara Brown

 Alternates: Keith Templeton

 Selectmen: Mark Lyon

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

**Minutes:** Minutes of the May 16, 2016 meeting approved. May 19, 2016 minutes approved with the change that Barbara Brown was at the meeting.

**Tax Collector Report:** No questions.

 Donna Alex, Tax collector reported that presently collection percentage is at 99.17. She has taken in $135,000 in interest and fees which a lot is from old car tax bills. The words “Intent to Levy” seems to be getting people to pay. As for the top 10 delinquent taxpayers, over half have been taken care of. There is a tax sale of the on Wednesday June 22, 2016.

She reported that the suspense list for the Grand List 2012 is $4,889.42 which is down from the usual $10,000. A motion to approve the suspense list was made by Barbara Brown and second by Michael Jackson and unanimously approve.

She reported after two long years and a lot of hard work, she has passed her certification for being a tax collector.

**Treasurer Report:** A follow up question. Are all the letters from all banks received about the accounts being collateralize? Will ask Linda McGarr

**Selectman:** Mark Lyon, First Selectman – It looks like we will end up the year with a surplus. Winter maintenance is in the black by $51,000. Building inspection is down. There are a few small overages. A question on the legal litigation fund was if the expense of Wkyeham School is closed. Per Mark at this point all is settled.

**Financial Reports**: Only question was on the miscellaneous Income which had an increase in May due to the return of funds from the closing of the fire fund.

**Board of Education**: Janet and John Buonciuto brought their concerns to the Board of Finance on the Ag Science Program. They reported that many of the statements from the PR firm that was paid by the taxpayers were not true.

* It would pay for itself – 11 million plus interest
* Bill and Bond was passed by the state – untrue
* If the towns did not approve it at referendum they would never get it
* No other option or the schools would close
* Were told that the State regulates the catchment towns. Actually the towns themselves can agree or not agree on how many students if any
* Need 196 students to breakeven
* At this time the catchment towns only send 41 to Nonnewaug High School
* Never told the public that they would have to pay back the grant if the Ag Science failed within the 20 year bonding period
* The Board of Education is asking for a million and half to get it shovel ready – Why so much?
* The Board of Education is requesting a 39 million dollar Bond

Michael Jackson stressed that the Board of Finance, under state law has no power in regards of the Board of Education. The Board of Finance has stressed to the Board of Education that since the State of Connecticut delayed the bond that they should think about a “Plan B”. Libby Adams stated that at least the Superintendent is doing something.

Dick Carey read an excerpt from the book “David & Goliath’ about Shepaug Middle School.

**New Business:** None

**Old Business:**  None

The meeting was motioned to adjourn at 5:29 By Barbara Brown, seconded by Liddy Adams and unanimously approved

 Respectfully submitted,

 Linda Kennedy Gomez Financial Administrator