Town of Washington

Board of Finance

March 19, 2018

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

Alternates: Keith Templeton, Phyllis Allen

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 by Barbara Brown, seconded by Ted Bent, and unanimously approved

**Tax Collector Report: No Comments**

**Treasurer Report:** There will be some CD to rollover and the interest rates will be a little higher

**Selectman:**

* First Selectman, Mark Lyon reported the winter maintenance is over budget. Salt is at 114% and overtime is now at 90% and will probably go over but overall Maintenance is at 88%.
* On The Resident Trooper – We have a new temporary trooper. Mark has met with 2 troopers from the barracks today and will be sitting in on the interviews for our new permanent trooper. There are five troopers that are interested in the position.
* Walker Brook Road is open
* Bridges – Romford Road is should be opening at the end of Summer
* Working on the 2018-2019 budget. Not where they want it. Will schedule a special meeting of the Board of Finance the first or second week of April 2018.
* Pavilion Hall – Special meeting on Saturday 03/24/2018 at 9:30a.m. The Board of Selectmen and an Ad Hoc committee have chosen the proposal from Plain Goods - Michael Deperno and Andrew Fry. The closing will be as soon as possible. It was the most complete proposal. They want to do an information center for the whole town. They will start out with the business upstairs. They currently rent the downstairs from the town. Their offer is $140,000. The upgrades to the property may cost up to 500,000.
  + 2nd offer was $200,000 with their business upstairs and renovate lower section for another commercial business.
  + 3rd was a group that thought they could raise $100,000 and have a community center for gatherings and meetings. The problem is there not enough parking and no septic.
  + At the meeting voters and property owners owning property over a $1,000 can vote.
  + There is a historic preservation easement in place on the property. If they want to make any external changes to the structure they have to get approval from the historic district commission.
* Follow up on the Firefighter Awards program – is there more we can do for the fire fighters who live out of town and don’t received the tax abatement. Also, those who only have cars do not get the full $1,000. Possible they can receive a check. Looking into options.

**Financial Reports**: No Comments

**Education:**

* Toni Bedini reported the Board of Educations has gone to the Land use Commission for approval to build/start a new school building. It passed Wetlands and ZBA and is going to the planning commission on Monday night. The Board of Education attorney said that the planning commission does not have jurisdiction over the project. Our attorney said he is not sure but to go through the process. They are doing more and more to get ready. If planning commission has jurisdiction and it is turned down then it would have to go to a town meeting to get a majority vote. If the vote is no the program stops and would have to go to court which will take time. The Planning Commission’s role is to write a letter saying this is appropriate with the Planning of Conservation and Development. There is a big movement to get in an education merit discussion. The Selectman have received a petition to have a special town meeting. The items they have requested is not town business. It is Board of Education information.
* Danbury has raised student numbers from 15 to 25. Region #12 First Selectmen’s met personally with Danbury Mayor, Danbury Schools superintendent, business manager and town attorney.
* Public views that the Board of Finance should have power on this school project. They feel the Board of Finance isn’t doing anything. The Board of Finance is being thought of in a negative way
* There are questions if the original referendum was valid because the public voted on material outlook that was a rosier scenario than a realistic scenario.
* The Board discussed that an attorney be hired for a legal opinion whether or not the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen have any authority with respect to the Board of Education actions. What is the range of responsibility? Can the referendum be overturned?
* Once a lawyer is found a subcommittee should go through the numbers to get a better feel on the project. Review the number of students. What would the cost per student be? Michael will ask Michelle Gorra for numbers. Maybe possible numbers from Erika Ryland.
* A motion to approve a maximum cap of $5,000 to hire an attorney was made by Keith Templeton and second by Craig Schoon and unanimously approved
* At the COST meeting they discussed about a regional Board of Finance
* The board wants the project to succeed.

**New Business:** None

**Old Business:** None

**A motion to adjourn at 5:45 by Michael Jackson and unanimously approved.**

**Next Meeting: April 23, 2018 – Please note new date**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez Financial Administrator