Town of Washington

Board of Finance

May 21, 2018

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

Alternates: Keith Templeton, Phyllis Allen, Matt Cain

Selectmen: Mark Lyon, David Werkhoven

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Tax Collector: Donna Alex

Guest: Meghan Bennett, New Region #12 Superintendent

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

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes of April 23, 2018 with the following changes;

* Liddy Adams did attend the meeting
* Under New Business, it should read “memorandum is to analyze” not analysis

**Tax Collector Report:** Donna Alex, Tax Collector answered questions about the suspense list. We do not write off the suspense list. When the town suspense a tax bill it moves it off the tax role for budget purposes but still leaves it in the hands of the tax collector to collect. Donna has sent 624 accounts to a collection agency. The collection agency adds 15% to the tax bill for their service. Some accounts will be coded such as a taxpayer is deceased or bankruptcy then the tax collector will no longer pursue that bill. The tax collector does not have the power to write off or make deals. The statue states the tax collector must suspend at least one account. The town suspend back two years. There are 4 properties that owners are unknown. They will always be on the suspense list and their tax bill is $819.00. The town could hire a title searcher but it may not be worth it. A motion was made by Michael Jackson to approve the suspense list, seconded by Barbara Brown and unanimously approved.

**Treasurer Report:** No Comments

**Selectman:**

* Things are looking good. The line items that are at 100% should be at this point.
* First Selectman, Mark Lyon reported the winter maintenance is over budget but regular maintenance is good so it should work out fine.
* Took a hit on the enforcement officer because of sick time and vacation time that was due him at retirement.
* A new enforcement officers interviews should start in a week or so.
* Question on interest. – over budget because interest rate increased on the sweep and checking accounts
* Michael asked how to evaluate if the Depot enhancement was worth it. Mark’s response was that the drainage is working and the runoff is no longer going into the brook and there are more compliments than complaints so he felt it was worth it.
* There is $25,000 for a senior center study so plans can be drawn up. The project is in the works and the senior center director is involved.

**Financial Reports**: No Comments

**Education:**

* New referendum is on June 5th**.** Not sure if the referendum will be 6 am-8 pm or 12pm-8pm. It does save money to have it 12-8. It is costly for an all-day referendum. There is a budget meeting tonight May 21st.
* The Board of Finance agreed to post a memorandum about the AgSTEM Project projections on the website in the Board of Finance section. This is for informational purposes only. This is not an opinion letter but a memorandum of facts. The numbers for the memorandum came from the Board of Education.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**A motion to adjourn at 5:32 by Barbara Brown and Seconded by Ted Bent and unanimously approved.**

**Next Meeting: June 18, 2018**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez Financial Administrator