Town of Washington

**Board of Finance**

***November 20, 2017***

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

Alternates: Keith Templeton, Phyllis Allen, Matthew Cain

Selectmen: Mark Lyon, Dave Werkhoven

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

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

**Minutes**: correction on minutes is that Liddy Adams was present at the meeting. A motion to approve the minutes with the changes was made by Phyllis Allen and second by Barbara Brown and unanimously approved.

**Tax Collector Report:** No Comment

**Treasurer Report:** Linda McGarr stated a change on her Treasurer’s report. The balance of the Open Space fund should be $29,205.72 not $ 29,505.72. A question on Greenways Fund, it is a restricted account that the town monitors and Conservation Commission regulates how it is used.

**Selectman:**

Per First Selectman Lyon the budget is in line. It is where it should be at this time of year. Few budget line items are paid once a year and they are at 100%.

Question on all the bridge money; the bridges under construction at this time is Walker Brook and Romford Road. They will continue to work on the bridges through the winter as long as weather permits. The cost of the two bridges will be 80/20 split with the state. Romford Road will cost us 20% of 2.5 million. Walker Brook will be 20% of 1.20 million. Romford hopefully would be done by July. Spring Hill Road Bridge was washed out by Irene which the town will pay 100% to repair. We are starting the process for the Whittlesey and Tuttle Road Bridge which will be in about two years. This is also 80/20 split with the state.

The Depot Enhancement project is also 80/20 split. We have enough fund in our capital account to cover the payment of the contractor while we wait for the state payment. One application for reimbursement has been submitted to the state already.

Dave Werkhoven gave a brief update on the Wykeham Rise property. There was a 3 ½ hour public hearing that was well attended and will be continued on December 11th. There has been lawsuit filed and is the courts and not sure where that will end up. Unfortunately the meeting got nasty and personal. People are concern because it looks awful and the potential hazards. They are trying to get permits to build an inn. It has to go according to the settlement agreement that the zoning board is part of. There is a certain amount of rules they have to follow. It seems now the rooms have full size kitchens with washier and dryers. The question is, is it independent living units and multifamily housing. The idea is to sell them as condos that the owner will reside for a short part of the time and then rent them out the rest of the time.

Police – We still have Greg Kenney, Jr still as the temporary resident trooper. The job has be posted recently. They were waiting on the budget being passed. We will be able to sit on the interview.

We are hoping to sell Pavilion Hall in New Preston. No firm decision has been made for the funds. First Selectman Lyon has two ideas; one would be to purchase the “Picket Property” if it should come on the market. It is the property on the right going up New Preston Hill. It would purchase for possible additional parking and housing. The other idea is a fund for improvements in New Preston. We have a couple of people interested in the Pavilion Hall. It was apprised over $200.000. The idea is to put it out to bid for a month and look at the offers and their intent for the property. Not necessary take the highest bid.

**Financial Reports: No comments**

**Education:** The bonding for the Ag-Stem is in the state budget. They don’t have the money yet. Stilling waiting to hear.

**Old Business:** The state budget has been passed. The “Town Aide Road Fund” has not been changed. It is a little over $300,000 and did not change because it is not in the budget it is bonded money. Our education grant has gone down to just under $50,000. We will no longer get revenue sharing. The latest round we also lost another $6,000 with the governor cut after the budget pass.

Renter’s rebate is now being split 50/50 with the state. It is a state program that people apply through the assessor’s office and paper work goes to OPM and they send the renters a check. For the towns 50 percent it will be $1,888.00. We are not sure if we will pay the state directly or they will take $1.888.00 out of our grant money. It is a subsidy that is mostly used by the elderly. They check usually go out in October but the state has yet to send them.

**New Business**: Per First Selectman Lyon we have over spent our road construction for the year mostly because of the increase in the drainage work than was not original expected. The expense is mostly for drainage material and paving. We do most of the drainage work ourselves. To cover the overage we have used some of the operating highway funds but request that $20,000 to come out of the Town Aide Road Fund. A motion was made by Barbara Brown to spend an additional $20,000 out of Town Aide Road fund to pay for the shortfall. Second by Craig Schoon and unanimously approved

A motion to adjourn was made at 5:29 Phyllis Allen and seconded by Barbara Brown and unanimously approved.

**Town meeting on November 30, 2017 on Easement for 13 River Road and New Preston Pavilion Hall Sale**

**Next Meeting: December, 2017 at 5:00PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez Financial Administrator