Town of Washington

**Board of Finance**

***September 18, 2017***

Present: Members: Michael Jackson, Sally Cornell, Craig Schoon, Barbara Brown, Edward Bent

Alternates: Keith Templeton, Phyllis Allen

Selectmen: Mark Lyon, Dave Werkhoven

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Guest: Darryl Wright, Kevin Smith

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

**Minutes**: Comment by Keith Templeton in regards of the employee picnic. He agreed that the picnic was a good idea however felt there should be something in the budget for “employee appreciation” or “employee relations”. It had suggested to Keith that the picnic may have been a labor organizing effort. Mark Lyon reassured that it was a picnic put on by the Parks in Recreation with funds that were an overage for programs that the parks and Recreation had sponsored. It was not an organizing meeting just a picnic. Phyllis Allyn felt that there was no need for a line item in the budget for “Employee Appreciation”. That the employees here are satisfied by the way they are recognized. A Motion to approve minutes by Edward Bent and second by Keith Templeton unanimously approved.

**Tax Collector Report:** No Comments

**Treasurer Report:** Revised Treasurer Report was submitted to the board with corrections. Change on non-recurring capital in the CD and checking account. New Balance for non- recurring is $4,706,333.90.

**Selectman:** Two months into the budget and things are going as plan. Some line items are more than the 15% due to that they are paid 6 months in advance. Parks and Reconciliation is over due to majority of there expense are in July & August but will equal out at the end.

In looking at the 06/30/2017 year end, overall we have come 51,600 in the red but that takes into account of the overage in the building inspection & Police Private Duty Reimbursable which the auditor will make a yearend adjustment to offset to income. After the adjustment expenses will than be $221,000 under budget.

As for the state. The town did not budget much in state grant. The last Governor budget eliminated all state funding except for Town Aide Road and LOCIP which was $91,000. Supposedly the Republican budget restore some of it. We will probably be somewhere in the middle. We will be able to weatherthe stormas long as they do not put in the teachers’ pension. The last round of the democratic budget had pension reimbursement at 50% of the current employees’ pension contribution.

The talks of the state is to always protecting the municipal aide but our aide has gone down by 60% in the last 5 years. That is why we did not budget much state funding.

Our resident trooper took a position at Troop L. We have a temporary trooper, Gregory Kenney, Jr. He is very conscious. First Selectman Lyon has met with resident trooper sergeant and positions are shifting around so they will post the position after everything is settled. The cost we are hoping will be less then we currently budgeted.

Question on Legal Litigation – After this year’s budget transfer, there is $218,000 in the account. The goal is to keep it close to $200,000 in the account. There will be some legal litigation for Wykeham Rise.

**Financial Reports**: Request for a 5 year comparison on income and expense.

**Education:** No more information on the Ag Stem. May not hear anything until the state budget has past.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business**: None

Guest: Darryl Wright & Kevin Smith. Darryl thanked the board for their support. One issue is to get new members and to entice firefighters who are on the squad to give a little more.

7 of the 43 members and 3 junior members do not live in town and do not get the benefits of the tax abatement. Is it a possibility to pay their town the tax stipend? The bulk of out of town members are from New Milford or Warren.

24 of the 43 are active member with the average age is 47. The day time calls have the average age of 56 years old.

To start out as a new member, a member has to go to Fire One which is 250 hours and located in Wethersfield.

The Fire Department wants to build their own training facility which would help.

Some idea would be to tier the requirements. At certain levels of training the town would put money into a college fund for their kids or grandkids.

Presently the town contributes 500 to an awards program an up to a $1,000 tax abatement. This tax abatement is taxable income to the firefighter. If a member is a renter they only get the rebate on the tax they pay on their cars.

Darryl submitted a listing of Connecticut town and their benefit package.

Members are not reimburses for mileage for class or fires. EMT’s are on the same program. The board requested that the department come up with a proposal..

**A motion to adjourn was made at 5:35 by Michael Jackson and second by Edward Bent and unanimously approved.**

**Next Meeting: October 16, 2017 at 5:00PM**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez Financial Administrator