**TOWN OF WASHINGTON**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Minutes**

**January 25, 2019**

***Minutes are subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.***

**Present:** First Selectman Mark E. Lyon, Selectman David Werkhoven.

Visitor: Michelle Gorra.

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Mark Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

**MOTION:** To add business not already on the agenda. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dave Werkhoven. Discussion: Increase of income limit for the Elderly and Disabled Homeowner Tax Credit Program. The motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:**

* **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the January 10, 2019 meeting of the Board of Selectmen. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dave Werkhoven and unanimously approved.

**Communications:** None.

**Appointments/Resignations:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

* **WiFi in the Depot:** The Economic Development Committee is requesting funding in next year’s budget to improve WiFi in the Depot.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* **Plastic Bag Ban:** The Washington Environmental Council, along with the Sustainability Committee, have been working on a draft Ordinance that would prohibit the use of plastic checkout bags by Washington business establishments. **Motion:** The Board of Selectmen will review the document and, if in agreement, will forward on to the Town Attorney for his review.By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dave Werkhoven. Discussion: The Selectmen will request that all Town businesses have been polled and had the proposed Ordinance explained to them. Once the approvals are received, the Ordinance would need to be approved at a Town Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
* **Property Tax Relief for Federal Shutdown Affected Employees:** The State of Connecticut has signed into law a bill establishing a loan program and a municipal option to establish a program to defer the due date of specific property taxes owed by affected employees. Donna Alex, Tax Collector, has explained that the State Tax Collector’s Association has reviewed the information and has developed an application form. **Motion:** To approve a program that would allow Federal Employees affected by the Federal Shutdown to apply for a deferment of property taxes. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dave Werkhoven and unanimously approved.
* **Increase of income limit for the Elderly and Disabled Homeowner Tax Credit Program offered by the Town of Washington:** Delisse Locher, Tax Assessor, has notified the Selectmen that the State income guideline for the Homeowners Tax Credit Program has been increased for the 2018 grand list. She is recommending that in order to extend this benefit to seniors slightly over the State level the Town’s income limit should be increased as well. **Motion:** To increase the Town’s income limit by $1,400 for a Single Household and $1,600 for a Married Household for the Elderly and Disabled Homeowner Tax Credit Program. By Mark Lyon, seconded by Dave Werkhoven and unanimously approved.

**Visitors:**

* **Michelle Gorra** inquired about the Tax Credit Program discussed at tonight’s meeting. Mark Lyon explained that by increasing the income limit, it offers the program to more elderly in Town who might otherwise not be able to benefit as they are just slightly over the State’s limit, and the loss to the Town is relatively minimal.

**Adjournment:**

* **Motion:** To adjourn the meeting at 5:50p.m. as there was no further business for discussion. By Dave Werkhoven, seconded by Mark Lyon and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Greene

Selectmen’s Assistant