Town of Washington

Special Meeting of Board of Finance

April 8, 2019

Present: Members: Michael Jackson, Ted Bent, Barbara Brown, Craig Schoon, Liddy Adams, Phyllis Allen, Keith Templeton

Alternates: Matt Cain

Selectmen: Mark Lyon, David Werkhoven, Jay Hubelbank

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Guest: Tony Bedini, Dan Sherr, Michelle Gorra

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

Mark Lyon, First Selectmen presented the 2019 -2020 Selectmen Budget with the following highlights;

**General Fund:**

* There is an increase in the grand list due to the revaluation. Large part due to the lake property
* 2% wage increase with a few adjustment to a few positions ( 2% last year)
  + In the Assessor office. A recommendation was made to have a fulltime assistant with benefit that with continue their education and training to become the assessor when the assessor retires. The Assessor will cut her hours back after the first quarter.
* IT support is up because of the updating of the systems, programs, and support.
  + Computers are on a 4year rotation with a new server on the 5th year
* Parks & Recreation has an increase for a groundskeeper for 1500 hours a year which will include hours for other town project. Weekly hours will fluctuation depending on the season. The groundskeeper will do mowing that is now done by the highway crew or outside contractor. He will be paid pension but not health insurance.
* Judea Cemetery will get an increase of $5,000 to help defray the cost for the increase in their maintenance contract. Judea Cemetery will also receive $5,000 in funds to start the repairs of monuments which are in need of repair. It will take a couple years to repair all that is need to be done
* New Preston Cemetery received an increase of $4,000 to cover the increase in their maintenance fees.
* Increase in Legal fee. Dave Miles has retired and the town has hired Randi DiBella and fees have increased.
* Increase in the Finance Department for an increase for Linda Gomez time to 4 days a week position.
* Building Inspector receives 74% of permit fees. The town budgets $52,000 in revenue
* The custodian received an increase for the hours he has for the in-house computer tech work
* Library has requested an increased by $4,500.

Capital Budget:

* Town wide Wi-Fi. - To have Wi-Fi in the depot not only for people walking around but also a hub that provides High Speed Wi-Fi. They are hooking into the Connecticut Education Network which comes in at the primary school. They will place an antenna at the school and then one at the town hall. It will then broadcast out through the depot. There will be a monthly cost to the town.
  + They are also looking into an incubators site. That will have high speed Wi-Fi. There would be a charge for the space.
* $250,000 for the radio upgrade on the Fenn Hill Tower and satellite towers for the dead zones in town. Dead zone such as at the end of Nettleton Hollow. This is for the town radio system that is used by the Highway Department, Police, Fire, and Ambulance.
* $50,000 is being put aside each year for a new grader.
* Replacing one of the police cars.
* The Fire Marshall will get the old police car which will need some upgrades.
* $50,000 in funds toward the upgrade on the New Preston pedestrian bridge. Long term gold is to put in a boardwalk and park.

The increase in the grand list after this year’s revaluation will be from capturing the cost of construction. Per selectmen Hubelbank our assessor is out in the field diligently catching this construction when it happens. She has done a great job

Public Hearing on the 2019-2020 budget is May 2, 2019

Town Meeting on April 17, 2019.

* For an ordinance on banning plastic bags.
* To approve the use of Local Capital Improvement Grant funds (LOCIP) toward the replacement of the HVAC system at the New Preston Firehouse

**A motion to adjourn at 5:42 by Michael Jackson and unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez Financial Administrator