Town of Washington

Board of Finance

Special Town Budget Meeting

**April 3, 2017**

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

Alternates: Keith Templeton, Phyllis Allen

Selectmen: Mark Lyon, Dave Werkhoven, Jay Hubelbank

Treasurer: Linda McGarr

Guest: Fire Department - Darryl Wright, Ethan Labella

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 by Michael Jackson.

First Selectman, Mark Lyon presented the 2017-2018 Budget with highlighted items in the Operating Budget:

* The town was the benefactor of a savings of $315,998 from the Education Expense due to the shift in population. Washington portion is $9,878,893.
* The selectman choose not to budget for the “Teacher Retirement Contribution”. The town of Washington has a State request was $423,138. There is a lot of opinion that it is not going to pass. At the NHCOG it is a 50/50 split on towns putting it in their budget or not. If it does pass there is enough money in the fund balance to cover it through a town meeting. Our fund balance is at 2.6 of monthly expenses and the recommendation per our auditor is 2 of monthly expenses. If it is put into the budget and it doesn’t pass the town would have over taxed the taxpayers. The State will not vote on this until late June or July. The state is passing the expense on to the towns. It is over 400 million expense across the state.
* There is a 2% increase in salaries with the exception of the Tax Collector and Town Clerk who will received an increase for their new certifications. The selectman review the salary survey produce by the NHCOG annual of surrounding town’s positions and salaries and the CPI of the past year to make their decision.
* Resident Trooper cost is at 100% which is in the state proposed budget. Plus $750.00 per Constable. Still looking into possible sharing of Resident Trooper.
* Fire Marshall is at full time plus benefits. There is a reduction in the deputy due to it was hard to keep a part time deputy.
* Health Insurance is estimated at 7% plus insurance for two additional employees. The Fire Marshal and the Selectman’s Assistant / Parks & Recreation Director. The numbers will be finalize on April 6th with the Insurance representative.
* New Preston Cemetery will be getting a $5,000.00 increase to help defray the maintenance cost.
* The Washington Ambulance Association made a request for help and the Selectman have budgeted to cover their Liability Insurance in the amount of $14,500. The town has always covered their workman’s compensation Insurance.
* Pension contribution will stay the same at $140,000. The actuary recommendation was $120,000.
* Increase in Road Salt by $30,000 and Sand & Gravel increase of $25,000
* No increase in the Library per their request.
* Increase in fuel for the Police Department.
* Increase in Assessor clerk due to more time and higher rate due to the skill level of assistant.
* DEEP increase in fee but has a corresponding income line.
* Increase in Paramedic Service is our prorated contract price.
* Increase in computer line item for new computers and IT service. In a 4 year cycle
* Increase in Liability Insurance is the new CIRMA Contract.

Non-Recurring Budget attached.

* Fire Department have made several request to put funds aside each year for equipment that will be needed in the future, Air Parks, Ladder Truck in 2030, etc. An annual request for a Water Supply Development to be built in areas where water supplies are needed. Steeples Road would be the first road
* Highway department is requesting to put funds aside for trucks in the future. Please refer to attach detail.
* Road Program for road and Bridge repairs. Includes Town Aide Road grant that we have already received from the state
* Building & Property –
  + New HVAC system to help with moisture control which has been an issue.
  + New Rook on Firehouse - Fire House was built in 1994
* Miscellaneous
  + New Server and computer update.
  + Mulch at the New Preston George Platt Field
  + Tennis courts has a large Crack
  + New Phone system that will work with the new nutmeg network which should save money on phone bills plus will give push button access to more department ie highway, fire house, etc.
  + Transfer station compactor. The roll offs currently are needed to be replace which will cost $10,000 each. The self-contained compactor can replace the two roll offs which will allows the town to carry more per trip which should cut our trips in half.
* There will be an addition for the Lake Waramaug dam repair. We do not have an estimate yet on the repair. In negotiation with Warren and Kent for a contribution from them to help to defray the cost.

Ethan Labella from the Fire Department spoke with the Board of Finance about their projections and possible needs to support their request for the $100,000 to be put aside each year for truck replacement. This would help if a truck should breakdown and needs replacement. They would not have to come to the town for $500,000 at one time. Michael Jackson extended his appreciation for what the Fire Department does.

Based on the presented budget an increase in the mil rate is not recommended.

Adjourned at 6:06

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kennedy Gomez Financial Administrator

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON, CONNECTICUT APPROVED 2017-2018 BUDGET**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| REQUESTED | | APPROVED | GRANT | APPROVED  AFTER GRANT |
| **Fire Department** |  |  |  |  |
| Fire Hose replacement | 7,500 | 7,500 |  | 7,500 |
| Radio Pager | 10,000 | 10,000 |  | 10,000 |
| Air Packs | 50,000 | 50,000 |  | 50,000 |
| Apparatus Replacement | 100,000 | 100,000 |  | 100,000 |
| Chiefs Vehicle | 40,000 | 0 |  | 0 |
| Water Supply Development Steeples RD. 15,000 Ga | 35,000 | 35,000 |  | 35,000 |
| **Total Fire Department** | **242,500** | **202,500** |  | **202,500** |
| **Highway - Equipment** |  |  |  |  |
| Highway Truck Replacement | 72,000 | 72,000 |  | 72,000 |
| Highway Grader Replacement | 50,000 | 50,000 |  | 50,000 |
| Highway Pickup Truck Replacement | 28,000 | 28,000 |  | 28,000 |
| Equipment Refurbished | 25,000 | 25,000 |  | 25,000 |
| Misc Garage Equipment | 5,000 | 5,000 |  | 5,000 |
| Used Roller | 15,000 | 15,000 |  | 15,000 |
| **Road Program** |  |  |  |  |
| Bridge Repairs | 300,000 | 300,000 |  | 300,000 |
| Guardrails | 50,000 | 50,000 |  | 50,000 |
| Pavement Maint | 125,000 | 125,000 |  | 125,000 |
| Paving & Drainage | 450,000 | 450,000 | 300,000 | 150,000 |
| Refurbish Dirt Roads | 35,000 | 35,000 |  | 35,000 |
| **Total Highway** | **1,155,000** | **1,155,000** | **300,000** | **855,000** |
| **Bldg. & Property** |  |  |  |  |
| **Building** |  |  |  |  |
| Firehouse HVAC Renovations | 26,000 | 26,000 |  | 26,000 |
| Bee Brook Firehouse new roof | 45,922 | 45,922 |  | 45,922 |
| **Total Building** | **71,922** | **71,922** |  | **71,922** |
| **Miscellaneous** |  |  |  |  |
| **Computer & Server Upgrade** | **17,000** | **17,000** |  | 17,000 |
| **Mulch - Park & Rec** | **8,000** | **8,000** |  | 8,000 |
| **Tennis Courts** | **10,000** | **10,000** |  | 10,000 |
| **Phone System** | **16,500** | **16,500** |  | 16,500 |
| **Transfer Station Compactor** | **25,000** | **25,000** |  | 25,000 |
| **Total Miscellaneous** | **76,500** | **76,500** |  | **76,500** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grand Total** | **1,545,922** | **1,505,922** | **300,000** | **1,205,922** |
| **Road Repair / Reconstruction** | **600,000** |  |  | 600,000 |