

Town of Washington  
**Budget Hearing**  
February 5, 2010

**1.0 ASSEMBLY**

**1.1** Meeting called to order at 2:00pm.

**1.2** Members: Guy Eaton and Ken Eastman  
Visitors: 16 members of the public  
Minutes recorded by: Michelle Dagesse

Eaton welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the Budget Hearing.

2.0 Eaton motioned to open the Budget Hearing. Eastman seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was opened at 2:00pm.

Highlights

- Advised that there is a new Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector and you will notice the increase in the budget for training purposes.
- Advised that the Cemetery budget is down by \$3,500.00. There is a new contractor.
- Advised that there is an increase in the motor fuel budget due to the fact that last year we encumbered monies to offset the cost of fuel.
- The Rescue Squad decreased their budget by \$5,000.00 because they can draw off the billing fund to cover some supplies.
- The Town will be participating in a Hazardous Household Waste Day that is part of a regional plan there will be two locations that residents may go to with different dates. The cost of participation will be \$2,000.00.
- Overall the operating budget is down again this year by \$14,000.00

Eaton advised that he would run through the 2011 proposed budget and warrant and if there were any questions to raise a hand at any time.

Eaton advised that there were many logging jobs going on in Town and the Town elected to keep the forestry consultant line in the budget. James Gaskell asked who was the Town's forestry consultant? France answered, Anita Blakeman.

Eaton explained that a line was added to the Treasurer's portion of the budget for mileage. The executive mileage line was reduced slightly to reflect the change.

Eaton mentioned that the Town had purchased a used pumper fire truck from the Town of Hillsboro and that it will be on the road in the near future. The truck cost is \$20,000.00 with some revisions needed.

Eaton advised that a line was added to the emergency management department for generator maintenance for the new generators at the Town Hall and the Center Fire Station.

Eaton informed the attendees that the dispatch fees provided by Hillsboro were reduced by \$200.00.

Eaton thanked the Library Trustees for reducing their budget by \$1,300.00 from the previous years transfers to the trustees, which they will carry over to this year.

Eaton then moved to the proposed warrant.

John Hyland asked Thayer when was the last time that the East Washington Road was maintained. Thayer said that Article 13 would be used for continual maintenance of the blacktop, which was done four years ago.

Eaton spoke on Article 15, which is to establish a bridge fund. This is a 80-20 cost share program through the State. This would establish a capital reserve fund in which the Town could prioritize Town bridges and Dole Schoolhouse Bridge has been designated as the top priority. Jean Kluk asked what the goal is in for the fund. Thayer said we would save over time to lessen the burden and we have five red listed bridges in Town.

Nancy Tanner asked if the Town performed a full revaluation or data verification. France explained what was done.

Eaton explained that Article 27 was to buy the fire center station land and to use the Town surplus to fund the purchase. Jean Kluk asked how much was in the fund balance. Eaton explained \$534,000 and explained what is suggested to be held from the Department of Revenue.

Eaton explained that Article 28 was to complete the funding for the two-year planning phase and the Town has raised 22,000.00 through fundraising/donations the balance will be raised through taxation.

John Hyland updated those in attendance regarding the potential decrease in funding from the State for school. He stated that the Board of Education could not confirm the rumor that the Town of Washington was to be changed to a donor town. Eastman asked that Hyland pass along the information when available to be included in the Selectmen's minutes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board Eaton motioned the meeting is adjourned. Marshall seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully,

Michelle Dagesse  
Executive Administrator  
Town of Washington