

**Town of Grafton  
Deliberative Minutes  
February 12, 2022**

Present: Steve Kudlik, Moderator, Cindy Kudlik, Tom McGinty Selectmen, Ed Grinley, Catherine Mulholland, Pam Curran, Budget Committee, Dorothy Campbell, Treasurer and Bonnie Haubrich, Town Clerk and George Curran and Susan Feinberg, Supervisors of the Checklist.

Moderator Kudlik opened the meeting at 9:04 am. He introduced all town officials and asked if there were any nonregistered voters present. (There were none identified.) He asked if any did come and ask to speak if the body would allow it. **Vote: 29 yes 8 no Vote passed.**

He then explained a motion to limit reconsideration.

Bonnie Haubrich, Town Clerk, read those residents who had died this past year.

Moderator Kudlik then explained the rules the voters were held to and announced the counters, Denise Smith and Bruce Sunnerberg.

2) Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by the vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling \$1,192,642. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$1,158,508, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous actions of the Town of Grafton or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised budget only. It excludes special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately.

**General Government**

Executive	\$61,143
Elections/Town Clerk	43,371
Financial Administration	43,662
Reappraisal of Property	18,337
Legal Expense	20,000
FICA/Medicare	29,000
Planning Board	200
General Government Buildings	45,300
Cemeteries	8,150
Insurance	103,265
Advertising/Regional Dues	1,500
Contingency	2,000

**Subtotal** **\$375,928**

**Public Safety**

Police	\$214,563
Ambulance	22,100
Fire Department	38,267
Emergency Management	200

Forest Fire Warden	700
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$275,830</b>
<b>Highway and Streets</b>	
Highway and Streets	\$390,750
Street Lights	3,300
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$394,050</b>
<b>Solid Waste</b>	<b>\$97,950</b>
<b>Health and Welfare</b>	
Health Agencies	\$9,000
Public Assistance	15,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$24,000</b>
<b>Culture and Recreation</b>	
Parks & Recreation	\$3,710
Library	19,874
Patriotic Purposes	300
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$23,884</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>	
Tax Anticipation Note (TAN)	\$500
<b><u>Operating Budget Total</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,192,642*</u></b>

**\*As amended at the February 12, 2022 Deliberative Session.**

Motion by Brian Fellers to address the budget line by line. Seconded by Jeremy Olson. **Vote:**  
**Yes: 5 No: 35 Motion failed.**

Bonnie Haubrich, Town Clerk, submitted an amendment which changed the budget from \$1,192,142 to \$1,192,642 which included an increase in the Town Clerk's stipend. Seconded by George Curran. Bonnie noted that this position has not had an increase since 2014. She explained that when she submitted her budget she asked both the Selectboard and the Budget Committee if they were not going to support the yearly stipend she should be informed and she would then be able to submit a petitioned warrant article for this increase. The Selectboard insisted that the increase had to be a separate warrant article, although both Bonnie and Ed Grinley had spoken to the attorney at the Municipal Association and were told that it could simply be with the budget. The Selectmen never informed Bonnie that they were not including a separate warrant article to address this. Angus Gorman noted that the work expectation has grown over the years and that this was not an unrealistic amount. Tom McGinty, Selectmen instructed the voters to do the math. He stated that the Town Clerk had received a total of \$27,500. and if divided by hours worked she was paid \$528.00 a week. Bonnie stated that Mr. McGinty was way out of line because he had no idea how many hours she worked and she had



never worked only during those "open hours". It was noted that even though the bottom line was increase it was up to the Selectboard how it would be allocated. Deb Clough asked, if approved by the voters, would the Selectboard honor the wished of the voters. Cindy stated she was not in favor of the increase. Tom stated that although he felt the increase was not warranted he would honor the wished of the voters. Heather Hunter called the question. Seconded by Brian Fellers. **Call the question vote: Yes 37 No 0 Motion passed. Article #2 amendment vote: Yes 25 No 15 Amendment passed. Motion to restrict reconsideration by Bonnie Haubrich. Seconded by Dorothy Campbell. Vote: Yes 29 No: 3**

3) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-three thousand three hundred fifty-five dollars (\$73,355) from the Ambulance Revolving Account to be placed in the previously established New Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund. This article, if passed, will have no impact on taxation

**The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.**

Heather Hunter explained that Kathy Lund, Ambulance Captain, was not able to be present and asked her to speak on the article. Heather stated that a new ambulance costs over \$200,000. She noted that these monies are held in the Ambulance Rotating Account and would simply be moved into the Capital Reserve Account. She also stated that there is conversation about moving the present "box" onto a new chassis. Karen Meyers asked what repair costs were this year. Heather stated she did not have that information available. Cindy noted that moving the money into the Capital Reserve Account would accrue more interest. Tom McGinty informed the voters that approximately \$4000 had been utilized for repairs and that the fuel gauge still does not work properly.

4) To see if the Town will vote will adopt RSA 41:14a to give the Select Board authority to acquire or sell land, buildings, or both, and to demolish or otherwise dispose of buildings.

**The Selectmen recommend this article.**

Tom McGinty stated that the town owns quite a few properties which cannot be sold without this article. Deb Clough asked if public hearings need to be held in order to sell or demolish buildings. Tom agreed that 2 public hearings need to take place. Steve Darrow stated that the public hearings need to be held, but voters do not get to vote whether the Board accepts it or not. Deb Clough stated that in the past the Selectmen would consider public input. Tom stated that if the properties were cleaned up it could increase revenue to the town. **Motion by Heather Hunter to call the question. Seconded by Dorothy Campbell. Vote: Yes 45 No: 0 Questioned called.**

5) To see if the Town will vote to increase the selectmen stipend by \$500, this will increase the current stipend from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

**The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.**

Cindy Kudlik stated that in fairness and the cost of living it was appropriate to increase the stipend and that the Selectboard had not received an increase since 1989. **Motion to move the question by Brian Fellers. Seconded by Rich Angell. Vote: Yes: 45 No: 0 Motion passed. Motion to limit reconsideration on Articles #3, 4 and 5 by Bonnie Haubrich. Seconded by Heather Hunter. Vote: Yes: 36 No: 2 Motion passed.**



- 6) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the purpose of paving town roads.

**The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.**

Cindy noted that this is a standard article requested every year. She stated that they hope to finish Prescott Hill paving this year. Tom stated that he was not aware that the Road Agent, Bob Bassett was not going to be present to speak on this article. Bruce Sunnerberg asked why the voters are not told ahead of time which roads will be paved. Cindy noted that the Board plan on meeting with the new Road Agent and make a plan for future paving. Cindy noted that there is no Capital Reserve for paving. Ed Grinley stated that there is an additional \$20,000 in the operating budget for paving.

- 7) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the previously established Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund.

**The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.**

Cindy noted presently there is \$31,026 in the Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund and that this fund was established in 1970. Ed noted that \$105,000 was spent in 2021 and that a number of pieces of equipment need to be replaced. Gary Whitney stated that this amount is twice the amount than asked in previous years.

Moderator Kudlik stepped down as Moderator and appointed Steve Darrow to fill his position so Steve Kudlik could speak on behalf of the Fire Chief.

- 8) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to be placed in the previously established Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund.

**The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.**

Kudlik stated that a new fire truck costs approximately \$300,000 and the Town presently has \$198,000. Gary Whitney asked if there is a plan in place for future purchases. Kudlik noted that there will be a plan by next year.

- 9) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the previously established Bridge Capital Reserve Fund.

**The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.**

Ed Grinley stated that the State of New Hampshire used to rate bridges in town and when they were needed to be replaced they were put on the "red list". He noted that one of the bridges in town should have been replaced last year. Bruce Sunnerberg asked what bridge needs to be replaced. Ed stated that Wild Meadow and Prescott Hill bridges need to be replaced. Pam Curran stated that presently there is \$210,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund earmarked for this. Lex Berezhny asked what the cost is to replace a bridge. Ed Grinley said the cost would be about \$1,000,000. Steve Kudlik noted that no one knows for sure. Ed stated that state funding has increased. Jeremy Olson asked what amount the state contributes. Ed noted that they provide over half.

- 10) To see if the Town will vote to re-establish the Property Tax Revaluations Capital Reserve Fund and to raise and appropriate fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in that fund.



**The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.**

Cindy stated that this article has failed in the past and the state will require a town wide reevaluation in 2025. She noted the purpose of putting the money aside each year alleviates the burden all at once. Rich Angell noted that the town should get rid of Avitar. Cindy stated that Avitar was the only assessing firm to respond to the Board. One other company responded but after the deadline. Angus Gorman noted that a reevaluation does not necessarily mean an increase in taxes, but more equality of sharing the burden. **Motion by Brian Fellers to move the question. Seconded by Heather Hunter. Vote: Yes: 44 No: 0 Question moved.**

**Motion to limit reconsideration by Bonnie Haubrich on articles 6 – 10. Seconded by Heather Hunter. Vote: Yes: 37 No: 2**

11) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the previously established Town Hall Capital Reserve Fund.

**The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.**

Cindy stated that the voters had voted to keep the Town Hall. She said that there was approximately \$30,800 in the Capital Reserve to address some of the issues. She noted that sill work needs to be addressed as well as water drainage and the heating system. She informed the voters that a furnace filter has been installed as well as LED lights.

12) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the previously established Recycle Capital Reserve Fund.

**The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.**

Ed stated that the State inspected the monitor wells at the Recycle Center last year and discovered that some of them were contaminated. Pam Curran noted that there is \$35,000 currently in the Capital Reserve. Jeremy Olson asked if the monies brought in from recyclables could be used for this need. Ed stated that if used it would offset other things that are needed.

13) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) to be placed in the previously established New Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund.

**The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.**

Police Chief Russell Poitras explained that this is a savings account to replace the vehicles, when necessary. He noted that the oldest cruiser is 2013 and no longer has a warranty. Lex asked how much a new vehicle costs. Chief Poitras stated that a new cruiser costs approximately \$50,000. Pam Curran noted that presently there is \$53,000 in the Capital Reserve.

14) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the previously established Veterans Park Capital Reserve Fund and to name the selectmen as agents to expend.

**The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.**

Cindy informed the voters at present there is approximately \$3703 in the account. She noted that the Legion wants to add another memorial stone and add additional veterans. Lex asked how much money is needed. Tom stated they are not sure. Ryan Escardy asked if all options have been explored, such as grants. Cindy stated that the Legion has explored the options.



15) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for the restoration of the Town's historical records.

**The Selectmen do not recommend this article/Budget Committee does not recommend this article.**

Bonnie gave an overview of the historical book restoration. Andrew Cushing asked why the Selectboard did not recommend this article. Cindy said that they had requested information from the Town Clerk and she did not respond. Ed Grinley said there was a tie vote with the Budget Committee.

16) To see if the Town will vote to change the Police Chief's position to an appointed position effective 2023.

**The Selectmen recommend this article.**

Tom stated that the intent was not to undermine the Police Department but due to the requirements to fulfill the job it seemed that the position should be appointed and not limited to candidates who would come forth and not be certifiable. Police Chief Poitras stated that there are challenges in electing someone, especially if they cannot fulfill the requirements. Appointed Chiefs are the norm for the State of New Hampshire, but it is important to realize that you have to have a Selectboard who is impartial and not a Board that micromanages, but trusts the person in that position. Angus Gorman reminded voters that when Merle Kenyon retired a convicted felon ran for Police Chief. **Motion to move the question by Lex. Seconded by Heather.**

**Vote: Yes: 44 No: 0 Motion passed.**

17) Are you in favor of amending the existing Town of Grafton Subdivision Regulations to exempt from the regulations the subdivision of property that does not require new town roads or utilities by changing 6.35 5. to "The transfer, conveyance or sale of a subdivided parcel, providing that no new streets, utilities or other public improvements are required." **(By Petition)**

Sharon Clark, one of the petitioners for this article spoke on it's behalf. She noted that it is expensive to subdivide a property and that regulations prohibit people from utilizing their own property. Angus Gorman stated that speaking as an individual and not a Planning Board member that the Planning Board is a regulatory body and not a board who is trying to get in the way of a property owner. He said the Board is there to provide support to landowners. It was noted that this is not a legal binding article, but an advisory article only. Motion to move the question by Brian Fellers. Seconded by Heather Hunter. **Vote: Yes: 44 No: 1 Question moved.**

18) Are you in favor of reducing the maximum penalty for violation of the Grafton Building Notification Ordinance from \$100 per day to \$0 per day, and the fee for filing the Building Notification from \$25 to \$5. **(By Petition)**

Sharon Clark, one of the petitioners spoke on behalf of the article. She stated that this form of government is "double jeopardy" with multiple government bodies regulating. She stated that she saw no reason for a building notification form, but simply inform the town. Angus Gorman stated that there needs to be clarity and accountability. Sharon Duffy asked the Selectmen how much money for building notifications was taken in last year. Cindy replied that \$225.00 was received. Chief Poitras stated that in 40 years he has never seen anyone fined for noncompliance. Steve Kudlik stated as Health Office when living space is added there is a need

for waste water to be addressed and done properly. Jeremy Olson asked if this article was advisory only? Cindy stated it is advisory only. Call the question by Heather Hunter. Seconded by Jim Spaulding. Vote: Yes 39 No: 1 Vote passed.

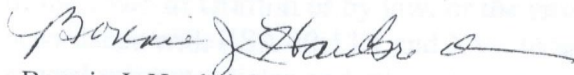
Motion to limit reconsideration to articles 11 through 18. Seconded by Heather Hunter. Vote: Yes: 34 No: 2

19) Are you in favor of repealing the two acre minimum lot size for dwellings? *(By Petition)*

Sharon Clark stated that the rural appeal of Grafton is important, but additional housing could also increase renting opportunity. Presently you cannot do what you want on your own property. Jeremy Olson asked if this article was advisory only. Cindy stated that it is advisory. Dan Morse asked why some properties are less than 2 acres. Cindy noted those properties had been grandfathered in pre the adoption of the 2 acre minimum. Cindy also noted that the Board had recently denied a request to build a 6 unit condo. An amendment was submitted by Sharon Clark to make it legal which read, "To see if the Town will repeal the two acre minimum lot size for dwellings". Seconded by Jeremy Olson. Gary Whitney noted that the two acre minimum is probably invalid. Tom stated that the Planning Board should not be side stepped. **Motion to call the question: Yes: 21 No: 0 Motion passed. Vote on amendment: Yes: 7 No: 24 Motion failed.**

**Meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted:



Bonnie J. Haubrich  
Town Clerk

Town of Grafton	
Executive	143
Executive/Policy Clerk	371
Department of Administration	1,663
Department of Property	1,137
Legal Department	2,500
Public Works	7,000
Planning Board	200
General Governmental Building	45,100
Comptroller	2,100
Insurance	1,100
Advertising/Signage Dept	1,500
Contracting	1,000
Subtotal	93,024
Public Safety	
Police	5,100
Fire Dept	2,100
Public Works Management	2,100