

**Town of Grafton
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, December 19, 2023**

Town of Grafton
Board of Selectmen

Members Present: Leif Hogue, Chair, Steve Darrow, Sara Hogue (Recorder)

Absent: Jennie Joyce

Others Present: Wanda Ellis, Catherine Mulholland, Maureen O'Reilly, Deb Clough, Gary Whitney, Jake Vogel, Mary Gasiorowski, Andrew Cushing, Karen Johnson

The Meeting was called to order at 6 pm

Acceptance of Minutes

Leif motioned to accept the December 5, 2023, public minutes. Steve seconded. Motion passed.

Ex-Officio Reports

Steve Darrow reported that in the Budget meeting that was held on Friday, The Ambulance, library, and Police Department came to appeal the Budget committee's recommendation. The Police Department was denied, and they added to the Ambulance and library budgets. The budget is a 6.36% increase from last year.

Steve also attended the Planning Board meeting. They just got done with a major subdivision other than that, not much to report.

Leif reported that the Fire Department met and voted on officers. They nominated Roger Prentice for chief, Heather Hunter as Captain, and Ken Bean as 1st lieutenant, and they left the 2nd lieutenant seat vacant. Leif motioned to accept the votes, and Steve seconded. Motion passed.

Appointments

- Deb Clough – Library follow-up – 6:15 pm - Deb provided the Board with a list of towns that did not receive funding in the first round of the Grant, Grafton would be in the second round. The Grant is 195 pages long, and they will have it in a 3-ring binder at the library for viewing. Deb is looking for a decision on the Selectmen's support for the Warrant Article. Leif read a letter to the Library Trustees and FOGL explaining the Board's decision to not support the Warrant Article. Leif motioned to send it to the Trustees, and Steve Seconded. Motion passed.
 - Andrew commented that the trustees are managing the project with FOGL. M
 - Mary added the reason that FOGL is applying is because they are trying to protect the town, stating that if the Trustees had applied for the grant and something failed then it would be the trustees who would be responsible for finishing the project, but because FOGL applied it falls on them. Leif pointed out that because it is on town property, it will still fall on the town regardless.
 - Jake commented that with the town government, he can go to the office and make 91-A requests to obtain information. The inability to go to FOGL for information removes the availability to be transparent to the public.

- Sara asked Deb if there would be a charge for copies of the Grant, to which Deb answered yes.

Other Business

- 2024 Warrant Articles
- 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 Historical Records Restoration Capital Reserve Fund
- 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 Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund.
- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be placed in the previously established Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund.
- 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 Bridge Capital Reserve Fund, this sum to come from the unreserved fund balance. No amount is to be raised from additional taxation.
- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to pave town roads.
- 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 Recycling Capital Reserve Fund.
- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the previously established Town Hall Repairs Capital Reserve Fund.
- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the previously established Property Tax Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund.
- 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.
- To see if the Town will vote to name the Selectmen as agents to expand the Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund to purchase, repair, and maintain equipment.
- To see if the Town will vote to name the Selectmen as agents to expend the Bridge Fund Capital Reserve Fund in order to Repair and replace bridges.
- To see if the Town will vote to name the Selectmen as agents to expend the Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund in order to Purchase Ambulances.
- To see if the Town will vote to name the Selectmen as agents to expend the Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund in order to purchase police cruisers
- To see if the Town will vote to name the Selectmen as agents to expend the Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund in order to purchase fire apparatus.
- To see if the Town will vote to name the Selectmen as agents to expend the Roll-Off Truck Capital Reserve Fund in order to replace truck for the recycling center.
- To see if the Town will vote to authorize the withdrawal of Fifty-Nine Thousand seven hundred dollars (\$59,700) from the already established Police Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase and outfitting of a new police vehicle.
- To see if the Town will vote to adopt RSA 41:14a to give the Selectboard authority to acquire or sell land, buildings, or both, and to demolish or otherwise dispose of buildings after the recommendation of the Planning Board and two Public Hearings.
- To see if the town will vote to establish a Police Department Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA **31:95-h (c)** Providing public safety services by municipal employees or volunteers outside of the ordinary detail of such persons, including but not limited to public safety services in connection with special events, highway construction, and other construction projects, or for any other

public safety purpose deemed appropriate by the municipality. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all monies in the fund and shall pay out the same only upon order to the Police Chief and no further approval is required by the Selectboard to expend. Such funds may only be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created.

- To see if the town will vote to discontinue the road leading from the top of Cherry Hill and Leading to the top of Bullocks crossing known as Farnham ROAD leaving the town a right-of-way at the top of Cherry Hill as a turnaround.
- To see if the town will vote to donate the Vacant lot at 2 Library Road (Map 16d lot 274) also known as the Grey Lot to The Friends Of Grafton Library (FOGL) for the purpose of a Library/Community center whereas the town shall not be responsible for any financial support as in Support/upkeep/maintenance or operating costs of said property/Building. Property Shall **NOT** be donated back to the town for any purpose.
 - Steve wants to have FOGL on board to support. Leif talked to Elaina about it previously, and Elaina was for it. Leif will talk to FOGL to see if they would be for this article.

Correspondence

Letter from attorney for pay rate for 2024

DOT onetime bridge payment for \$28998.49

Letter from Gary Whitney - about a Capital Improvement Plan - Gary stated that he did some research, and there is a provision to have PB or a committee, look at several towns that use a committee for CIP, which would involve one rep from PB and one from BOS. He would like to have a Warrant article to get a CIP program committee started. Leif commented that the Board has been talking about it for a while, and does not think it is a bad idea to have a CIP and committee assigned to it. Leif motioned to add the warrant article. Steve seconded. Motion passed.

Public Comment

Andrew Cushing let the Board know that he will be meeting with Scott Sanborn about the Parsonage lot. He is working on a petition article for selling that lot. Leif does not recommend a petition article, as it opens the door for anyone to be able to do it.

Jake Vogel inquired if voters could approve of selling a property.

Jake commented that he does not like private and public entities intertwined, and would like to see FOGL get gifted the lot on 2 Library Road.

Gary Whitney inquired if FOGL built a private library, would there still be a public library? Leif answered that there would be two separate Libraries, the current one would stay public, and the new one would be private.

Steve motioned to adjourn. Leif seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Hogue, Administrative Assistant