

**Town of Grafton
Board of Selectmen
Thursday, October 14, 2021**

Members Present: Cindy Kudlik, Jennie Joyce, Tom McGinty, Sue Smith (recorder)

Others Present: Bob Bassett, Ed Grinley, Paul Vogt, Rick Jackson, Kate Coolley, Karen Johnson, Susan Fienberg, Bonnie Haubrich, Steve Kudlik, Heather Hunter, Kathy Lund, John Babiarz

The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm.

The selectmen met with each department head to review, discuss and make recommendations for the following 2022 budget requests:

- Recycle Center – The requested amount for 2022 is \$94,900. This is an increase of \$700 from the 2021 budget due to increases in dumping and hauling fees . After reviewing the budget, the selectmen increased the phone line item from \$450 to \$500 due to increases in costs from Consolidated Communications; which brings the total requested amount to \$94,950. Cindy motioned to pass the budget request as amended to the budget committee. Tom second. Jennie agreed. Motion passed.
- Highway Dept. - The requested amount for 2022 is \$394,650. This is an increase of \$6,361 from the 2021 budget due to increases in Retirement, Uniforms & Shoes, and Winter Sand. After a brief discussion, Tom motioned to send the request as is to the budget committee. Cindy second. Jennie agreed. Motion passed.
- Parks & Recreation – The requested amount for 2022 is \$3,710. This is an increase of \$260 due to increase of cleaning portable toilets at the Recreation Field and Huff Beach. After a brief discussion, Tom motioned to send the request as is to the budget committee. Jennie second. Cindy agreed. Motion passed.
- Library Trustees – The requested amount for 2022 is \$20,991 (\$17,991 from the operating budget and \$3,000 from gross basis). This is an increase of \$3,117 due to increases in media, heating fuel, phone, restrooms, supplies, electric, and wages. There was a discussion about the media costs as well as the supplies. After reviewing the budget, the selectmen decreased the media line item from \$2,125 to \$1,500, the supplies line item from \$400 to \$300, and the electric line item from \$480 to \$420. These amounts decreased the total budget request to \$20,206 (\$17,206 from the operating budget and \$3,000 from gross basis). Tom motioned to send the budget request as amended to the budget committee. Jennie second. Cindy agreed. Motion passed.
- Supervisors of the Checklist - The requested amount for 2022 is \$2,123. This is an increase of \$1,103 due to three elections and deliberative session in 2022. After a brief discussion, Tom motioned to send the request as is to the budget committee. Jennie second. Cindy agreed. Motion passed.
- Town Clerk – The requested amount for 2022 is \$41,448. This is an increase of \$6,448 due to three elections and deliberative session in 2022 as well as an increase for the deputy town clerk hours and town clerk stipend. Prior to discussing the budget, Steve Kudlik, Moderator, was asked to attend to discuss increases for the ballot clerks stipend. Currently the ballot clerks receive a \$75 stipend per election. Steve would like to see this stipend increase to \$125 per election. Bonnie stated that if the ballot clerks are receiving an increase, then the moderator

should receive one as well. Steve stated that he was not interested in an increase. The selectmen feel there will be enough in the budget to cover the increase of the ballot clerks stipend. The selectmen briefly discussed the Town Clerk budget and reduced the postage line item from \$2,100 to \$1,800. This amount decreases the total budget request to \$41,148. Tom motioned to send the budget request as amended to the budget committee. Jennie second. Cindy agreed. Motion passed.

- Tax Collector – The requested amount for 2022 is \$20,280. This is an increase of \$1,780 due to increase in postage, increase for the deputy tax collector hours and a new line item for cleaning services. After a brief discussion, the selectmen decreased the cleaning service line item from \$780 to \$390. This amount decreased the total budget request to \$19,890. Cindy motioned to send the budget request as amended to the budget committee. Tom second. Motion passed.
- Planning Board – The Planning Board did not submit a budget request for 2022. The selectmen made the recommendation to set the budget of \$200 for the 2022 season. Tom motioned to send the budget request as is to the budget committee. Jennie second. Cindy agreed. Motion passed.
- Cemetery Trustees – The requested amount for 2022 is \$8,150 (\$7,150 from the operating budget and \$1,000 from gross basis). This is an increase of \$250 due to the increase of wages. After a brief discussion, Jennie motioned to send the request as is to the budget committee. Tom second. Cindy agreed. Motion passed.
- Welfare – The requested amount for 2022 is \$15,000. This amount is the same at the 2021 budget. After a brief discussion, Tom motioned to send the request as is to the budget committee. Jennie second. Cindy agreed. Motion passed.
- Ambulance Dept. - The requested amount for 2022 is \$30,100 from the operating budget. This is an increase of \$9,100. The increase in the operating budget is due to the increase in call stipends and dispatch fees. The amount that the ambulance department is planning to use from the revolving account during 2022 is \$21,894. After a brief discussion, the selectmen recommended that the dispatch fees for 2022 be paid through the revolving account. With this recommendation, the operating budget decreased to \$22,100 and the revolving account increased to \$29,894 for a grand total of \$51,994 for the 2022 budget. Tom motioned to send the budget request as amended to the budget committee. Jennie second. Cindy agreed. Motion passed.
- Emergency Management – The requested amount for 2022 is \$200. This is a decrease of \$200 from the 2021 budget. After a brief discussion, Jennie motioned to send the request as is to the budget committee. Tom second. Cindy agreed. Motion passed.
- Fire Warden – The requested amount for 2022 is \$1,000. This is the same at the 2021 budget. After a brief discussion, the selectmen recommended to decrease the budget to \$700. Tom motioned to send the budget request as amended to the budget committee. Jennie second. Cindy agreed. Motion passed.
- Fire Dept. - The requested amount for 2022 is \$38,009. This is an increase of \$14,409 from the 2021 budget due to dispatch fees, equipment, fuel, repairs, and training. After a brief discussion, the selectmen increased the fuel line item from \$900 to \$1,000, the postage line item from \$56 to \$64 and the phone line item from \$500 to \$550. These amounts increased the budget request to \$38,267. Tom motioned to send the budget request as amended to the budget committee. Jennie second. Cindy agreed. Motion passed.

The police department and selectmen budgets will be reviewed and discussed during the October 19th selectmen meeting. There will also be a follow-up to the Town Clerk and Tax Collector budgets with regards to the Avitar software and historical records encumbrance of the \$3,000 from the 2021 warrant article.

Cindy motioned to adjourn. Jennie second. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smith, Administrative Assistant