

**Town of Grafton  
Board of Selectmen  
Tuesday, October 17, 2023**

**Members Present:** Leif Hogue, Jennie Joyce, Sara Hogue (recorder)

**Absent:** Russel Poitras

**Others Present:** Roger Prentice, Sandy Griffin, Buddy McDow, Bonnie Haubrich, Gary Whitney, Jake Vogel, Ed Grinley, Maureen O'Reilly, John Babiarz, Catherine Mulholland, Heather Hunter, Dianne Burrington, Geoff Joyce, Andrew Cushing

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Acceptance of Minutes**

Jennie motioned to accept the October 3, 2023, public minutes. Leif seconded. Motion passed.

The Selectmen met with the department heads to review, discuss, and make recommendations for the following 2024 budget requests:

Fire Department – The requested amount for 2024 is \$52,650. This is an increase of \$22,650 from 2023. After a brief discussion, Leif motioned to send the budget to the Budget Committee as is. Jennie seconded. Motion passed.

Emergency Management – the requested amount for 2024 is \$600. This is an increase of \$500 from 2023. After a brief discussion, Leif motioned to send the budget to the Budget Committee as is. Jennie seconded. Motion passed.

Fire Warden – The requested amount for 2024 is \$550. This is an increase of \$50 from 2023. After a brief discussion, Leif motioned to send the budget to the Budget Committee as is. Jennie seconded. Motion passed.

Welfare – The requested amount for 2024 is \$15,800. This is an increase of \$1,450 from 2023. After a brief discussion, Leif motioned to send the budget to the Budget Committee as is. Jennie seconded. Motion passed.

Cemetery – The requested amount for 2024 is \$11,250 (\$12,250 from the operating budget and \$1,000 from the gross basis). This is the same as 2023. After a brief discussion, the Selectmen increased the Equipment to \$500, added a Fuel line item of \$100, and added a Repairs and Supplies line item of \$2,400. These amounts increased the total budget request to \$14,000. Jennie motioned to send the budget request as amended to the budget committee. Leif seconded. Motion passed.

Highway – The requested amount for 2024 is \$556,500. This is an increase of \$124,250 from 2023. After a brief discussion, Leif motioned to send the budget to the Budget Committee as is. Jennie seconded. Motion passed.

## **New Business**

Supervisors Checklist PC - The Supervisors need a new computer. Using specs given by the state, Twin Bridges quoted it at \$1400 with a 3-year warranty w/o accidental damage. Leif motioned to use \$1400 of ARPA, and Jennie seconded. Motion passed.

Dump Barrels - Rick discovered that the barrels of oil from Dyers are hazardous waste. It will cost \$420 per drum plus transportation at \$450. 13 drums will total \$5910 to dispose of. Leif motioned to use the last of ARPA funds. Jennie seconded. Motion passed.

## **Other Business**

Health Trust 2024 Rates have increased by 15.6%. Leif motioned to accept the new rates. Jennie seconded. Motion passed and agreement signed.

Primex 2024 Rates - Unemployment Program Contribution increased by 2.8%, Workers' Compensation Program contribution increased by 10%, and Property and Liability Contribution increased by 9%.

## **Correspondence**

Email from Cindy Kudlik - inquiring as to why the Selectmen chose not to have a tax deed auction this year.

Sandi Person email - complimenting the Highway Department on the work done to Mil Brook Rd and Gifford Hill Rd.

Eversource email - notifying of expected cost increase in February.

E911 Email - NH911 Cares is now available online

Angus Gorman Email - Angus is making a ski trail network and has a website [www.isinglasstrails.org](http://www.isinglasstrails.org). He is requesting permission to groom the Rec Field for a loop that beginners can use. He would also like to add other town properties to the trail. Jennie motioned to ask Russell for his input. Leif Seconded. Motion passed.

Amy Dixon, NHDHR email - Moose Plate Grant for the Town Hall was denied.

Education Tax Warrant - the Total Equalized Value x Tax Rate of \$1.22 per \$1000 Value for Grafton is \$263,669.

Mascoma Valley Ecumenical Council sent their Thanksgiving Basket Form. Copies will be at the office.

Wise letter- requesting an appropriation of \$400 for 2024

VNAH letter - requesting donation of \$2,300 for 2024

Tri-County CAP - Requesting a donation of \$2,770 for 2024

West Central Behavioral Health - Requesting a donation of \$1,697 for 2024

Public Health Council of the Upper Valley - Requesting a donation of \$1065.75 for 2024

## **Public Comment**

Jake Vogel Asked for clarification on the best way to contact the Selectmen. Leif said email is preferred. Jake also inquired if there has been any discussion about donating the 2 Library Rd property to the Library. Leif is going to write up a warrant article.

Jake wanted to know why the Board does not want a new roof on the parsonage. Jennie stated it would be a waste of money.

Bonnie Haubrich responded that it is the choice of the donator what they choose to spend their money on.

Sandy Griffin inquired about what the plans are for the parsonage. Leif commented that they would like to get rid of it.

Maureen O'Reilly inquired if there could be a warrant article to donate the parsonage.

Bonnie wanted to know if the Town had a written letter from Primex about the safety of the Parsonage. Jennie said that she believes we do.

Bonnie commented that Sargent Hill Road is horrible, and expressed thanks for addressing. Jennie addressed Leif and the way that he addressed Geoff during Geoff's budget meeting was inappropriate.

Jake inquired what the issues are at the Highway Department

Maureen asked the Selectmen if they knew when the Town was due for the balloon payment for the school. Jennie and Leif are not sure, will need to ask the SAU.

Ed Grinley had previously asked for \$3000 for a new fridge for the Cook Shack, but it turned out to be a freezer not a fridge. Instead, he would like to spend it on a new compressor for the current fridge. It was quoted at \$1,000. Leif motioned to accept Ed's request. Jennie seconded. Motion passed.

Maureen inquired about the Paving money that has not been spent yet and whether or not it can be encumbered. According to the Legal Council at NHMA, it cannot be encumbered unless it is already promised through a contract.

Jake inquired why the Laptop for supervisors was so much. Leif said that it was based on Spec from the State.

Gary Whitney asked for clarification on the Waste rules at the dump. Jennie clarified that it is loose human waste that is the issue.

Leif motioned to adjourn. Jennie seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sara Hogue, Administrative Assistant