

Grafton Budget Committee Minutes December 14, 2023

Members present: Ed Grinley (Chair), Catherine Mulholland, Bonnie Haubrich, Sandy Griffin, Steve Darrow (*ex-officio*)

Others present: Mitchell Briggs, Kathy Lund, Deb Clough, Karen Johnson, Maureen O'Reilly, Jake Abuhav, Gary Whitney

The Appeal Budget Committee meeting was called to order by Ed at 6:02pm. Minutes from the December 8, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Bonnie made a motion to accept the minutes; seconded by Steve. All in favor.

Police Department

Mitchell proposed a net increase of \$15,000 to his budget with the intention of hiring a part-time police officer. He was made aware of a retired police chief who is interested in a part-time position of 10 hours. From a recent NH survey that was conducted, Grafton's department is understaffed.

Catherine made a motion to increase the budget to \$215,131; seconded by Sandy; Steve, Bonnie and Ed in non-agreement. The increase was denied as budget dollars have been included in the police budget over the years, however, no additional officer was hired and funds appropriated unnecessarily. Ed suggested that if negotiations continue with the interested party and employment is highly probable, Mitchell could further discuss an increase at the public hearing meeting.

Sandy made a motion to retain the bottom line of \$198,937 as previously proposed by the Budget Committee; seconded by Steve; Catherine in non-agreement; remaining members in favor.

Ambulance

Kathy reviewed several line items in the budget, but primarily focused on the Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance category. The Budget Committee reduced the line item to \$1,000 with the arrival of the new ambulance that has been purchased. Kathy commented that the delivery date is not until June 2024. Ed noted that only \$12,000 has been spent YTD from the revolving account. In response, Kathy discussed major equipment needs in the upcoming year. For example, a cardiac monitor, snow tires for the new ambulance, etc.

Bonnie made a motion to reinstate the Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance line item to \$3,500; seconded by Sandy. All in favor.

Taxation Total - \$19,450 Gross Basis Total - \$21,725 Grand Total - \$41,175

Library

Deb requested a review of several line items. Heating Fuel - after a review of the expenditures YTD and additional year end payments, an adjustment from \$1,000 to \$1,350 was justified. Likewise, after recalculating expenditures Utilities/Electric were underfunded by \$200 and

increased to \$800. Wages - an increase was awarded due to hourly rates for the monthly staff meetings.

Since the library has recently purchased their own portable toilet, the rental fee has been eliminated. The monthly fee is significantly less, therefore, less money needs to be appropriated. The Restrooms line items was reduced from \$1,200 to \$750.

Sandy made a motion to adjust the Grand Total to \$20,620 with \$1,000 Gross Basis for a Total from Taxation of \$19,620; seconded by Bonnie. All in favor.

Ed made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38pm; seconded by Sandy. All in favor.

Notable Dates:

Budget Hearing Notice – *must be posted by the 2nd Tuesday in January (January 9, 2024)*

Next Meeting Date: Friday, January 12, 2024 6:00pm-7:00pm Town Hall

Public Budget Hearing: Friday, January 12, 2024 7:00pm-8:00pm Town Hall

School District Session – February 3, 2024

Deliberative Session – February 10, 2024

Election – Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Respectfully submitted,
Sandy Griffin