**Grafton Budget Committee**

**Minutes December 1, 2022**

**Members present:** Ed Grinley (Chair), Catherine Mulholland, Maureen O’Reilly, Sandy Griffin, Cindy Kudlik (Select Board Ex-officio)

Others present: Geoffrey Joyce, Andrew Cushing

The meeting was called to order by Ed at 6:00pm. This Budget Committee meeting was held to

review budgets for the Highway Department (Geoffrey Joyce, Road Agent) and Library (Andrew Cushing, Trustee).

**Highway:** Numerous line items were discussed with Geoffrey. In addition, Catherine mentioned the superior condition of the Enfield, NH roads. Geoffrey commented that Enfield uses manufactured stone on their roads which would be double the cost. Ed suggested that the cost may be greater, however, the road remains in better condition for a longer period of time. Maureen stated a test run on one of Grafton’s roads might be beneficial.

Since so many materials/services included on the highway budget have increased in price given current economic conditions, Geoffrey is working with neighboring town’s road agents to see if a consolidated purchase order of culverts can be made, therefore, lowering the cost per town. There is sufficient money remaining in the 2022 budget to make purchases before year end thereby reducing the budget for 2023 which was an increase request of 38%. The Highway Block Grant helps offset the bottom line budget.

**Library:** Andrew stated that Grafton’s library is 8th from the bottom in library funding statewide. He gave a detailed report of library statistics including, for example, number of patrons visiting the library. Maureen asked for a breakdown of the requested wages.

Discussion referring to issues with the Library port-a-potty ended with the possibility of purchasing a new one with using a single vendor for all town port-a-potty cleaning.

The following motions were made by the Budget Committee:

Sandy made a motion to approve a Highway budget of $428,250.00. Ed seconded. All remaining committee members in favor.

Sandy made a motion to approve a grand total Library budget of $19,040.00 and total from taxation of $18,240.00. Ed seconded. All remaining committee members in favor.

Maureen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10pm. Ed seconded. All remaining committee members in favor.

**Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2022 @ 6pm at the town hall**

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Griffin