

Approved

Grafton Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2020

Members present: Ed Grinley (Chair), Catherine Mulholland, Pam Curran, and Jennie Joyce (Select Board ex-officio)

Also present: Cindy Kudlik (minute taker), George Curran, Heather Hunter, Kathy Lund, Rick Jackson and Gary Whitney

Meeting called to order by Ed Grinley at 18:10. Pam moved to accept the July 8, 2020 minutes; Jennie seconded. Motion passed.

Ed announced that the Budget Hearing will be on January 15th at 7pm and the Budget Committee will meet prior to the hearing at 6pm. He also announced that petitioned Warrant Articles are due by January 8th, the town Deliberative Session will be January 30th at 10am and voting will be March 9th. Ed also stated that this year the Budget Committee will be meeting with Department Heads first and will not vote on budgets until the following meeting so everyone has time to go over the information and find answers to any other questions they might have. Pam stated that it would be nice to have up-to-date information on the Trust Funds and Capital Reserve accounts. Cindy will forward that information from Three Bearings to the Committee.

Budgets Reviewed

Supervisors of the Checklist: Down \$4,577 from last year; from \$5,597 to \$1,020. George explained that they have found many ways to be more efficient so the budget reflects fewer needed hours. He has also increased the hourly pay from \$7.85 to \$12 as this is the lowest pay other town part-time laborers receive. The budget has no money allotted for training as they don't anticipate needing any in 2021. It was also noted that there is only one election next year.

Ambulance Department: Down \$5,914 from last year; from \$47,450 to \$41,536 (submitted at \$41,630 but reduced by the Selectmen). Ed thanked the Ambulance Department for not needing Canaan to cover calls this year. Kathy mentioned that there were two mutual aid calls, but otherwise we have been taking care of our own calls since January or February. She also stated that we received a bill from Canaan for \$18,000 but she has asked Mike Sampson to send a corrected bill as we only had a 6 month contract for coverage and that was agreed to be for \$12,060. Dotti Ernst has retired but is still an EMT and helping Kathy learn all the ins and outs of being the Captain. Kathy introduced Heather Hunter who is now the 1st Lieutenant and Supply Officer.

Ed suggested that the GVA consider putting a warrant article on the ballot to make the Selectmen agents to expend from the New Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund in case the ambulance breaks beyond repair and needs to be replaced. There was some discussion regarding putting money into the Capital Reserve as that process has been mucked up the past few years so they will be requesting \$50,000 be placed in it next year. Some more money will be able to move into the Revolving Account after 2 CD's mature in 2021. Ed asked what a new ambulance would cost and Kathy said she thought it was around \$200,000. Kathy stated that the Auxiliary purchased a power stretcher that has helped a lot with moving patients safely.

Ed asked about the Radios & Pagers line item increasing from \$500 to \$4,000; Kathy stated that new 2-way pagers cost \$2,000 each. Gary Whitney asked about Capital Reserves and Revolving Accounts and several people explained them both to him. Ed asked about the Medical Supplies being \$5,000 when they've only spent \$1,600 so far this year. Heather stated that she was able to get us signed up with McKesson to get meds, that Boundtree doesn't always have in stock what we need and that some meds are required to be kept on the

Ambulance that are never used but have to be replaced because of expiration dates.

Recycle Center: Up \$6,575 from last year; from \$91,325 to \$97,900. Rick stated that dump fees are up, hauling costs more and one of the compactors needs welding. Jennie asked if Rick had plans to fix the crack in the floor by the bailer and Rick replied that he didn't know how it could be done. Ed asked about the Wages line item increasing from \$38,000 to \$40,000 when the \$38,000 included the \$6,000 Bobby Bassett was being paid to be the Manager. Rick explained that he would like to give Scott and Wesley a raise and he also needs Scott to work more on Wednesdays. He is also including paying Dave and Bobby for hauling in this line item. Ed asked how much the raise is he intends to give and whether or not the Selectmen approved it. Rick stated that he'd like to give them both a dollar an hour raise, which would put Wesley at \$14.50 and Scott at \$14 and the Selectmen did not ask specifics about the raises. Ed asked about the Utilities/Electric line item increasing and Rick stated that when the new bailer is hooked up they'll use more electricity. Rick also mentioned that the footings on one of the compactors is rotted and after they're fixed he can put Line-X on them so it doesn't happen again.

Cemetery Trustees: Up \$250 from last year; from \$7,900 to \$8,150. Pam stated that it didn't seem right to raise the budget next year when so very little of it has been spent this year. Ed explained that we had trouble getting and keeping employees this year and he has been doing most of the mowing. Jennie stated that he should be paid for that and Cindy stated that the Trustees intend to raise his stipend for this year to properly compensate Ed for the hours he's worked. Cindy stated that she disagreed with the Stone Resetting line item doubling as no money has ever been spent out of this line item. Ed stated that this line item increased from \$250 to \$500 so materials can be purchased to enable the Sexton, Trustees and volunteers to straighten some of the stones that are leaning. Pam stated that she didn't think this budget should go up higher than last year.

Parks & Rec Dept: Same as last year at \$3,450. Ed stated that they haven't spent much because everything was canceled due to covid and hopefully next year things will be back to normal.

Old Home Day: Same as last year at \$500. Ed stated that this was also canceled due to covid and no money was spent but hopefully we'll be able to do this next year.

Ed stated that the committee would not be looking at the Town Clerk or Tax Collector budgets as Bonnie wasn't able to attend tonight's meeting because she had open hours for both offices on Wednesdays. After some discussion it was decided to schedule the next two meetings for Thursday, November 5th at noon and Tuesday, November 17th at 6pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for November 5th at Noon at the Town Hall.

Ed adjourned the meeting at 19:25.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Kudlik