

Approved **with corrections**

## Grafton Budget Committee

### Meeting Minutes

October 31, 2019

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

**Also present:** Cindy Kudlik (minute taker), Maureen O'Reilly and Russell Poitras

Meeting called to order by Ed Grinley at 12:03.

### Budgets Reviewed

*Cemetery Trustees:* Down \$100 from last year; from \$8,000 to \$7900. Jennie asked if there were grants available for stone cleaning. Ed explained that the trustees had wanted to continue stone cleaning but personal issues prevented them from finding the time for it this summer. They had also discussed a warrant article to hire out for some cleaning, but due to the tax rate going up as it did, decided not to ask the taxpayers for more money. Jennie moved to accept the 2020 budget as proposed; Catherine seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

*Parks & Rec Dept:* Up \$800 from last year; from \$3,450 to \$4250. Ed stated he'd like to reduce this budget by \$800 to stay at last year's total. He said they can look elsewhere for the money needed to add mulch to the playground area so the Insurance Project line item can come back down to \$300 instead of \$1100. Catherine moved to accept the 2020 budget at \$3,450 as discussed; Jennie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

*Police Department:* Up \$17,150 from last year; from \$192,744 to \$209,894. Catherine asked what Capital Expenditures were this year. Russell explained several items including the JAMAR radar equipment that has paid dividends in man-hours.

Pam asked about dispatch fees. Russell explained that Hanover sends just one bill and he spends a great deal of time divvying it up between Police calls, Fire calls and Ambulance calls. He's taking the whole fee into his budget for next year and we should expect to see both Fire and Ambulance budgets reduced by \$6,450 each as a result. It was noted that the dispatch line item included \$1032 for an Aircard (wireless access for the in-vehicle computers) and that ought to be added to the budget. He told the committee to keep in mind that Hanover Dispatch's fiscal calendar year is July to June. He also pointed out that to keep Mitchell on the department, he's going to give him a 2.15% raise each year and a concern for the future is the town not offering a family health insurance plan.

Jennie asked where the money goes when someone pays the fine for a ticket they receive (re: speeding). Russell said the money goes to the state. It used to be allocated to help pay for police academy attendees but has been reallocated for other uses.

Ed asked about whether Johnny Dodge's wages come out of this budget because they don't show that way on the reports. It was determined they are split because he also works for the Highway Department,

sometimes in the same week as he puts in hours for the Police. Russell mentioned that he will go over on the wages line item this year by \$12-15,000 because of the new state “felony first” program that mandates paperwork must be completed in a much tighter timeframe for felony arrests. Grafton has had 5 major crimes this year and in a normal year there’s only one.

Ed asked what the police salaries are. Mitchell’s salary is \$50,000 per year and Russell’s is \$62,800. Angela ~~Berry~~ Barry is also paid for clerical work.

Russell asked if the committee would please add in the Aircard to the dispatch/pager line in the budget. Ed suggested that line item be raised to \$27,206 which changes the total to \$210,900. Pam moved to accept the 2020 budget at \$210,900 as discussed; Jennie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**No next meeting was scheduled because no other budgets have been submitted yet.**

Ed adjourned the meeting at 13:20

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kudlik