

Approved

Grafton Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2019

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

Members absent: Pam Curran

Also present: Cindy Kudlik (minute taker), Sue Smith and Bobby Bassett

Meeting called to order by Ed Grinley at 12:05. Catherine moved to accept the 10/31 minutes with one correction; Jennie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Budgets Reviewed

Library Trustees: Up \$2050 from last year; from \$15,314 to \$17,374 with \$1,500 Gross Basis. The Select Board approved the total but increased the Gross Basis portion to \$2,000, leaving \$15,374 to be raised by taxes. Sue Smith was in attendance to address any questions the committee may have. There was discussion regarding the line items that changed. Wages increased due to hiring a new employee to cover medical leaves and also increasing the director's hourly rate as well as paying her to attend mandatory meetings. Electricity increased due to the library being open for Craft night and Book Club. Professional Development increased because 2 of the Trustee positions are up for election next year and if there are new Trustees they may want to attend training. Sue said they expect to have 2 book sales next year, in May & October to help offset the media line item. Catherine moved to accept the 2020 budget as proposed by the Select Board; Jennie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Supervisors of the Checklist: Up \$3,467 from last year; from \$1,930 to \$5,597. Ed stated the increase is due to there being 4 elections in 2020. Catherine moved to accept the budget as proposed; Jennie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Planning Board: Same as last year; \$300. Discussion about the budget proposal not being submitted on the proper form and also how the Planning Board doesn't spend any money. Jennie moved to accept the budget as proposed; Ed seconded. Catherine abstained. Motion passed.

Welfare: Down \$5,000 from last year; from \$20,000 to \$15,000. There was some discussion regarding the lack of detail provided by the Select Board this year regarding the number of cases and what money is being spent on. Ed stated that he was told the Select Board decided 2 months ago that they will no longer share that information with the committee. There was some discussion regarding the information being pertinent to decision making as well as denying public disclosure. Catherine stated she would like the Select Board to provide the same level of detail they have in the past. Jennie moved to accept the budget as proposed; Catherine seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Fire Warden: Same as last year at \$1,000. Jennie moved to accept the budget as proposed; Catherine seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Emergency Management: Up \$80 over last year; from \$120 to \$200. Discussion regarding the increase and the computer requested last year never having been purchased. Jennie moved to accept the budget as

proposed; Catherine seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Highway Department: Down \$4,694 from last year; from \$430,000 to \$425,406. The Select Board approved it at \$388,289 by eliminating the Capital Expenditure line item (it will be a separate warrant article) and increased both the Repairs and Heating Fuel line items. There was discussion about large purchases being made without prior Select Board approval as well as the cost of repairs, uniforms and fuel. Also discussed the only paving done was Razor Hill getting a top coat and what FEMA money was used for. Catherine stated it would be good to know how many yards of gravel or paving we get for the money spent. Calcium chloride use, fuel use, leaf blowing, roadside mowing/trimming, overtime, the cost of tires and ledge pack were all discussed. Jennie stated she'd like to see a plan for paving. Catherine suggested reducing the budget by the amount of FEMA money coming in and stated the committee needs to find out what moneys were received from FEMA and where they were spent; in general, she'd like more details on several line items.

Bobby Bassett arrived at this time to answer any questions the committee might have.

He stated that he is expecting \$29,000 to come from FEMA and that will be used for excavating or paving on Kinsman Rd. He also explained that FEMA money had not been set aside for the Emergency Management computer requested last year as there is nowhere to put it.

This year's block grant was about \$132,000 which is up about \$7,000 over last year. He used \$21,000 of that to finish paving Orange Pond Rd. and Razor Hill Rd.

Some expenditures on the Repairs, Parts & Supplies line item were questioned. Bobby explained that he replaced a sander and the grader will need tires next year. Culvert prices, uniforms and shoes were also discussed.

He asked the Select Board to place articles on the warrant for \$50,000 to pave Slab City Rd. and Barney Hill Rd. \$47,117 for a new grader; and \$25,000 for ledge pack gravel. He stated that the price is up to \$77 per ton for paving. He did not ask for a warrant article to add to the Capital Reserve fund due to the tax rate increase. Jennie moved to accept the budget as proposed by the Select Board; Ed seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Recycle Center: Up \$4,325 over last year; from \$87,000 to \$91,325. Bobby stated that dumping fees are up \$4,000 and he takes every third load out of the Revolving Account. The cost of fuel has hauling fees up by \$325. He bought 8 new tires for the roll-off truck also using Revolving Account monies. Catherine moved to accept the budget as proposed; Jennie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ed adjourned the meeting at 14:37

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Kudlik