

Approved

Grafton Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2020

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

Members absent: Pam Curran

Also present: Cindy Kudlik (minute taker)

Meeting called to order by Ed Grinley at 12:10. Sue Smith came to notify the committee of a change the Library Trustees would like to make to the 2021 Library Budget. The Friends of the Grafton Library have agreed to cover some of the Media line item expenses so after some discussion it was decided to reduce the Media line item from \$1,734 to \$934, reducing the taxpayer portion of the budget to \$16,339, leaving the Gross Basis at \$3,000 resulting in a total budget request of \$19,339. There was also some discussion regarding the GOFERR grant money from the state offsetting several budgets this year. (GOFERR refers to the Governor's Office For Emergency Relief and Recovery which was established to distribute the Federal CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds)

Catherine arrived at 12:42. Ed moved to make a correction to the November 17th minutes; he stated that he voted no on the Recycle Center budget along with Catherine so Pam's motion did not pass. Jennie seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Budgets Reviewed

Selectmen: This proposed budget is down \$26,365 from last year, from \$344,586 to \$318,221. Ed had several questions regarding Wages, Property Appraisals and Warrant Articles that Jennie and Cindy answered.

Welfare: Same at \$15,000

Then Ed went through Warrant Articles for Town Clerk - \$3,000 for Records Restoration, \$9,000 for a Police Cruiser & \$10,000 for a new Ambulance. There was some discussion regarding records restoration the committee will ask Bonnie when she comes to the next meeting to discuss her budget.

Ed then went back to discussing Budgets from:

Fire Warden: Same at \$1,000.

Town Clerk: Down \$5,000 from \$40,400 (\$21,400 taxation/\$19,000 gross basis) to \$35,400 with \$15,300 coming from the taxpayers and \$20,100 from gross basis revenue. Discussed the Licensed Software and Internet line items that were reduced by the Selectmen.

Tax Collector: Down \$850 from \$19,350 (\$14,850 taxation/\$4,500 gross basis) to \$18,500 with \$15,000 coming from taxpayers and \$3,500 from revenue. There was some discussion regarding phone and fax line

items because the Tax Collector share a phone number with the Town Clerk. Catherine commented that it would be very helpful to have the previous year's actual expenditures on the form along with the allocated budget amounts.

Fire Dept: Same at \$26,000. Discussed FD Warrant Articles, projects and Capital Reserve account balances.

Highway Department: Up \$62,050 from \$388,289 to \$450,339. It was noted that the Road Agent's proposed budget was \$411,339 (an increase of \$23,050) but the Selectmen raised the paving line item to cover the base coat needed on Hardy Hill Rd. Discussed 2020 expenditures, paving plans, tires for the grader allocated in the 2020 budget, ledge pack and proper road grading, Warrant Articles, new truck costing \$115,851 and also including state Block Grant money showing as Gross Basis revenue offsetting some of the Hwy. Dept. budget.

Meeting adjourned at 15:17. No budget decisions were made at this meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday December 4th at Noon at the Town Hall. No other meetings after that have been scheduled yet other than the Budget Hearing on January 15, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kudlik