

Approved

Grafton Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 26, 2019

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

Also present: Cindy Kudlik (minute taker) and Deb Clough

Meeting called to order by Ed Grinley at 12:12. Catherine moved to accept the 11/18 minutes with one correction; Jennie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

There was some discussion regarding proper road maintenance and money wasted every year by not properly crowning or applying calcium chloride. Ed announced that the Budget Hearing would be January 17, 2020. Pam stated she may be out of town that day.

Budgets Reviewed

Old Home Day Committee: Budget requested - \$500. This is a new committee Ed is currently heading because others in town have expressed interest to have an Old Home Day in August, separate from the Independence Day Celebration in July. The Selectmen will appoint committee members and will post for several appointed position openings in January. Jennie moved to accept the 2020 budget as proposed; Pam seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectmen: Up \$20,553 from last year; from \$324,033 to \$344,586.

Discussed the legal expenses; Jennie stated the town is withdrawing from the PSNH lawsuit and there have been legal fees involved with a lot number mix-up.

Discussed appraisal contract and the town-wide reval required in 2020. This year the selectmen decided to sign a one year contract with Avitar because there is new software coming and Sue can do the data entry after that rather than paying Avitar to do it. Catherine asked what next year's cost would be as in the past the 5 year contracts were divided up to avoid large jumps in the cost on the reval years. Jennie stated that hadn't yet been determined. Pam moved to accept the budget as proposed; Jennie seconded. Motion passed with 3 aye votes, Catherine voting nay.

Fire Department: Down \$3,949 from last year; from \$25,450 to \$21,501. Discussion regarding Active 911 charges on the Dispatch Fees line item, just what it is and how many members there are to use it. Jennie mentioned that they always get Fire Department meeting minutes but never from the Ambulance Department. They haven't received an updated roster in a while, though.

Looking through the 2019 expenditures so far, it was noted that there were 2 reimbursements to John Babiarz for a hand truck; once in June and again in August.

Discussed the workout equipment in the station. It was mentioned that it was someone's personal equipment they are keeping there for everyone to use. Pam asked if the town's liability insurance would have to cover someone being injured while using it.

Ed pointed out that in the attached letter John stated that the Highway Department was doing a lot of the needed vehicle repairs. Discussion ensued regarding when and where this work was done.

Ed stated that he checked into the dispatch fees and Hanover does not have a different fiscal year, but were just late getting bills out in 2019.

Ed also told the committee that he was told that the department members had asked to be included in the budget proposal process but were not.

Ed noted that the request for 2020 for Equipment, Maintenance and Training are the same as this year yet have been well underspent this year. Equipment – spent \$3,100 of the \$5,300 appropriated; Maintenance – spent \$223 of the \$3,000 appropriated and Training – spent \$166 of the \$2,500 appropriated. He suggested making the following changes: Dispatch Fees - \$0; Equipment - \$3,500; Maintenance - \$1,544 and Training - \$2,000 for a total of \$17,500. Catherine moved to accept the budget at \$17,500 with the proposed changes; Jennie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ambulance Department: Down \$6,450 from last year; from \$47,450 to \$41,000. There was some discussion regarding how the heating fuel cost is split with the fire department and also mutual aid with Canaan.

There was also a lengthy discussion regarding stipends, the revolving account and a lack of oversight by the Selectmen. It was noted that there is about \$56,000 in the revolving account right now. It was also mentioned that the number of calls was not revealed nor do we have a current roster.

Catherine stated that Mitchell and Russell have taken EMR training and we still need more people, not a new ambulance right now.

Ed asked Cindy to contact Dotti Ernst and ask her to attend the next meeting to answer questions and also see if Russell can attend to help her understand the dispatch fees.

The next meeting will be at 6pm on Thursday, December 5th at the Town Hall/

Ed adjourned the meeting at 15:15

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Kudlik