

Approved **with corrections**

Grafton Budget Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2020

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

Also present: Cindy Kudlik (minute taker), Russell Poitras, Steve Darrow

Meeting called to order by Ed Grinley at 12:02.

Ed moved to accept the November 19th minutes; Pam seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Budgets Reviewed

Police: The budget approved by the Selectmen was \$215,709, an increase of \$17,709 but Russell provided the Budget Committee with another proposal of \$208,976 (\$10,976 increase). Russell explained the changes in the second proposal changing the Chief Salary to \$70,000 without overtimes which would reduce the retirement amount as well. He also proposed lowering the Uniforms, Legal and Wages line items. Pam moved to add back in the \$991 for the secretary to clean every week and approve the budget at \$209,967; Jennie seconded. Motion passed. There was some discussion regarding a Warrant Article for \$9,000 to be added to the New Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Account and Russell's wanting a Dodge Ram instead of another small Ford SUV.

Planning Board: Down \$50 from \$300 to \$250. Steve Darrow talked about the planning board budget reduction as well as his desire to have the Planning Board update the Master Plan from 1987. Pam moved to accept the budget as proposed at \$250; Jennie seconded. Motion passed.

Welfare: Proposed budget to be the same at \$15,000. Pam moved to accept the budget as proposed at \$15,000; Catherine seconded. Motion passed.

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 wages and lien processing fees. Jennie moved to accept the budget as proposed; Pam seconded. Motion passed.

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. There was some discussion regarding the \$1,400 printer purchased that did not come out of this budget because it was submitted to come out of General Government Buildings and Steve and Jennie ok'd it. Ed moved to cut the Supplies line item by \$400 and approve the budget at \$35,000 with \$14,900 coming from the taxpayers and \$20,100 being Gross Basis; Catherine seconded. Motion passed. Ed reported that he talked to Bonnie about the \$3,000 restoration of records warrant article and there are about 15 more books to be done.

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

Fire Dept: Same at \$26,000. Discussed spending being at about 68% of the total budget so far. Ed proposed making reductions to the Equipment, Supplies and Training line items. Catherine moved to accept the budget at \$23,600 as Ed proposed; Ed seconded. Motion passed. **Jennie commented that there is enough money left in the this year's unspent budget to seal the floor rather than have that as a warrant article next year.**

Library: Up \$2,045 from \$17,374 (\$2,000 Gross Basis) to \$19,339 with \$3,000 being Gross Basis. After some discussion regarding wages, the Director's pay, raises and the number of users, Ed proposed to level fund the library at \$17,374 with the increase in Gross Basis staying at \$3,000 so the impact to the taxpayers will be \$14,374; Pam seconded. Motion passed.

Recycle Center: Up \$5,675 over last year from \$91,325 to \$97,000. Ed moved to reduce the Hauling, Repairs, Uniforms and Electric line items and approve the budget at \$93,000. Catherine then moved to approve the budget at \$96,000. Ed moved to approve the budget at \$94,200. Pam asked why this budget doesn't include money that goes in and out of the Revolving Account as Gross Basis like other departments. Ed moved to approve the budget at \$93,025. Cindy pointed out that no one had seconded any of the motions on the table yet. Jennie seconded Ed's motion of \$94,200; motion passed.

Highway Department: Up \$62,050 from \$388,289 to \$450,339. Discussed calcium chloride usage, culverts, fuel, uniforms and sand & gravel. Ed said he'd like to reduce the paving line item and put that in as a warrant article instead. Ed made a motion to level fund the budget and approve it at \$388,289; Pam seconded. **Catherine voted no, Jennie voted yes under duress.** Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 14:50.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 10th at Noon at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Kudlik