

Approved

Grafton Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2020

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

Also present: Cindy Kudlik (minute taker) and Andrew Cushing

Meeting called to order by Ed Grinley at 12:05.

Ed stated that he'd like the comments Jennie made regarding sealing the Fire Dept. floor included in the December 4th minutes. Jennie stated that she'd also like the minutes to reflect that she voted for the Hwy. Dept. budget under duress. Pam moved to accept the minutes with these corrections; Jennie seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Budgets Reviewed

Library: Andrew asked the budget committee to reconsider the budget as approved because with the Gross Basis being \$1000 more than last year, they will actually have \$1000 less to spend on media. There was some discussion regarding what FoGL agreed to pay for and some of the Gross Basis sources restricting usage to media only. Also discussed wages and large increases this year for all employees as well as what the trustees expect to pay a new director when hired. Ed stated that library usage isn't up so it's hard to justify the library budget increasing so much every year. Andrew stated that there has been a big increase this year in downloadables, so while in person usage has been understandably down in 2020, there has been an increase in usage, plus they've been doing deliveries. Andrew asked that the committee add \$1000 back into the budget for media. Pam moved to increase the media line by \$500 making the total taxpayer portion \$14,874 with the Gross Basis being \$3,000 for a Grand Total of \$17,874. Catherine seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Selectmen: Cindy presented changes to the Insurance and Property Appraisal line items from the budget passed by the Selectmen of \$318,221 which is \$26,365 lower than last year's \$344,586. Because of a change in the health insurance offering to employees the Insurance line item was adjusted from \$117,843 to \$110,643. The Selectmen also signed a three year contract with Avitar for mapping services at \$2,665 per year. This was added to the \$15,672 Property Appraisal line, making it \$18,337. Pam moved to approve the budget at \$313,686; Ed seconded. Motion passed.

There was some discussion regarding the Highway Department and Recycle Center budgets but it was decided to not make any changes at this time. Ed mentioned that the Recreation Committee will be asking the Selectmen to put an article on the warrant to make the Selectmen agents to expend the Recreation Building Capital Reserve Account as they have a plan to replace the cookshack at the rec field. Warrant Articles will be discussed at the meeting just prior to the public budget hearing. Ed stated that he was told the School Board approved level funding for the school district next year and also that our budget committee does not need to meet again until 6pm on Friday, January 15, 2021 with the public hearing following at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned at 13:06.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Kudlik