

**Town of Grafton
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, November 17, 2020**

Members Present: Steve Darrow, Chairman, Jennie Joyce, Cindy Kudlik, Sue Smith (recorder)

Others Present: Bruce Sunnerberg, John Dodge, Denise Smith, Paul Vogt, Bob Bassett

The meeting was called to order at 9am.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Jennie motioned to accept the minutes of November 4, 2020. Cindy second. Motion passed.

Selectmen Announcements:

Cindy attended the School Budget Committee meeting yesterday, November 16th. She stated that the Superintendent understood Grafton's concerns and the School Budget Committee will not be putting money into the Special Ed Fund for 2021 as there is more than \$600,000 in that account.

Ex-Officio Reports:

Planning Board and Budget Committee will be meeting tonight and the Budget Committee will meet again on Thursday, November 19th. The Library Trustees will be meeting Wednesday, November 18th instead of Thursday, November 19th.

Public Comment: None

Appointments:

Bruce Sunnerberg, 162 Tunnel Rd, met with the selectmen to discuss illegal dumping on private properties. Bruce informed the selectmen that a truck was spotted down his second driveway. Bruce saw the person who was trespassing on his property and filed a report with the PD. During the week of November 9th, Bruce found tires dumped on his property, which is a remote area off of Razor Hill Rd. He has, in the past, brought illegally dumped tires to the recycle center and the attendants have been really good with him. He is not blaming or criticizing any officials of the Town as this is not their fault. Bruce inquired if the Town has an ordinance for illegal dumping. Cindy stated that it is a State law for illegal dumping and provided RSA 163:b as a reference. Bruce is requesting to have the DPW pick-up tires that were illegally dumped on his property. Bruce stated that he is willing to put the tires near the road. Bob stated that he would not be able to pick them up between now and early spring due to the trucks having sanders already installed. Steve stated that he will pick up the tires after this meeting is adjourned.

Bob Bassett, Road Agent, presented the selectmen with specs for a new truck CV515 SFA All-Wheel Drive. The breakdown is as follows: Cab and Chassis: \$64,872, Stainless Steel Plow and Equip: \$56,800, Extended Warranty 84 months/75,000 miles: \$2900, Towing and/or Road Service Coverage: \$790, Trade In for the '09 International: \$7,000; the Grand Total: \$118,362. A CDL is not required to

drive this truck Bob stated that there is \$111,184 in the Highway Capital Reserve Fund. Bob stated that he would like to use most of the capital reserve fund to purchase the truck as it would have no impact on taxation and to have the extended warranty and the towing and/or road service coverage come from the highway operating budget. Steve stated that he is in favor of Bob's suggestion about the extended warranty and towing/road service costs coming out of the highway operating budget.

New Business:

2021 Budget Review – The selectmen reviewed and discussed the following budget requests:

- Fire Department – requested budget for 2021: \$26,000. This is the same amount as 2020. After a brief discussion, Cindy motioned to pass the budget request as is to the Budget Committee. Jennie second. Steve agreed. Motion passed.
- Board of Selectmen – requested budget for 2021: \$323,221.00. This is a decrease of \$21,365 from the 2020 budget. The following line items increased: Ads & Reg Dues from \$1,400 to \$1,500; Executive from \$58,658 to \$59,450; Insurance from \$98,290 to \$117,843; Street Lights from \$2,900 to \$3,000. The following line items decreased: Finance Admin from \$24,404 to \$24,156; Gen Gov Bldgs from \$42,430 to \$41,300; Reappraise Props from \$56,204 to \$15,672. After a brief discussion, the selectmen made the decision to lower the legal line item from \$25,000 to \$20,000. This decreased the bottom line to \$318,221. Cindy motioned to pass the Selectmen budget request as amended to the Budget Committee. Jennie second. Steve agreed. Motion passed.
- Welfare – requested budget for 2021: \$15,000. This is the same amount as 2020. After a brief discussion, Jennie motioned to pass the budget request as is to the Budget Committee. Cindy second. Steve agreed. Motion passed.

Other Business/Correspondence:

Disability Exemption – approved per income and asset qualifications being met.

Abatement Application – Mulholland (Map 12 Lots 707, 664-1, 664-2, 664-3, 664-4, 664-5, 664-6 & Map 7 Lots 664 and 1078). The selectmen agreed to abate inventory penalties on all the properties except for Map 12 Lot 707.

Public Comment:

Paul Vogt commented that he is having an issue with a property owner not allowing him to access on a right-of-way to his property. This property is off of Recreation Field Road and the subdivision plan shows the right-of-way to the said property. Paul stated that he has spoken to the police about this but was informed that it is a civil issue. Jennie recommended that Paul take the property owner to court.

Final Comments from the Selectmen:

Steve informed the Board that Dan Stuart contacted him and would like to make a deal to purchase his properties back from the Town. The properties were taken by tax deed earlier this year. Steve told Dan that he would have to meet with the selectmen to have this discussion.

Jennie commented about the situation with the burn pile at the recycle center. Cindy stated that she removed the roots but not the stumps from the pile and asked Rick to have the stumps removed. Bob stated that he cannot burn until he gets permission from John.

Cindy commented on the inconsistency of following rules and regulations within departments and personnel. The ride-along rule was brought up for discussion due to Hanover Dispatch requesting to have a new hire ride-along with area police to get familiar with the towns. The selectmen will inform the police chief that this is permissible as both departments, police and dispatch, work together. The ride-along rule is in place to prohibit non-employees from riding in town vehicles, unless it is the ambulance.

Cindy stated that Bonnie asked both Cindy and Jennie to discuss the possibility of allowing Bonnie access to the town website to post the EB2.gov link for online payments. After a brief discussion the selectmen made the decision to have Bonnie provide the link to Sue to post on the website.

Jennie stated that she will stay until March and then will resign her position as she is unable to resign now and stay until town vote.

There was a brief discussion about the 2020 Annual Report. Cindy motioned to have Sue continue working on the town report. Jennie second. Steve agreed. Motion passed.

Jennie motioned to adjourn. Cindy second. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smith, Administrative Assistant