

**Town of Grafton
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, December 15, 2020**

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

Others Present: Bonnie Haubrich, John Babiarz, Russell Poitras

The meeting was called to order at 9am.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Jennie motioned to accept the minutes of December 1, 2020. Cindy second. Motion passed. Cindy motioned to accept the minutes of December 8, 2020. Steve second. Jennie abstained. Motion passed.

Selectmen Announcements:

Steve announced that the following roads have been posted 25mph: Slab City Rd, Williams Hill Rd, Riddle Hill Rd and Davis Rd.

Ex-Officio Reports:

Steve announced that the Planning Board will not be meeting in December. Jennie announced that the Budget Committee has completed their meetings with various town departments. Their next meeting is the Budget Public Hearing in January.

Public Comment:

Bonnie Haubrich informed the Board that she would like to appoint Heather Hunter as Deputy Town Clerk and Tax Collector this afternoon. Cindy motioned to accept Bonnie's recommendation to appoint Heather Hunter as Deputy Town Clerk and Tax Collector. Jennie second. Steve agreed. Motion passed.

Appointments: None

New Business:

2021 Default Budget – The selectmen accepted and signed the 2021 Default Budget of \$1,159,757; a \$25,514 decrease from the 2020 budget due to a decrease in contractual obligations.

2021 Police Budget Request revisited – Cindy informed the Board that the police chief submitted a new proposal to the budget committee which decreased the bottom line a little but increased the police chief wages to \$70,000 a year with no overtime and was approved. The original requested amount for the police chief salary was \$67,500. There was a brief discussion about the consistency, or lack thereof, when it comes to pay range scales for the various departments in town. Steve stated that he is good with the \$70,000 salary. Jennie concurred with Steve. Cindy was in agreement and also stated that she

wanted the Board of Selectmen to be aware of the new proposal and to approve what the Budget Committee had approved.

Other Business/Correspondence:

Cemetery Deed – The selectmen signed a cemetery deed with John Babiarz notarizing their signatures.

Abatement Applications – Lepper/Grovesteen Trustees (Map 14 Lot 1241) – Cindy motioned to accept the recommendation from the assessor and to approve the application. Jennie second. Motion passed.
McKean (Map 16 Lot 338-201-02) – Cindy motioned to accept the recommendation from the assessor and to approve the application. Jennie second. Motion passed.

Veterans' Credit Application – The selectmen approved and signed the application.

The selectmen reviewed and discussed the following correspondence:

- Approvals for Operation – Map 12 Lot 553 and Map 16 Lot 771
- Letter from NHDRA re: Grafton 2020 USPAP Report
- Letter from NHDRA re: 2021-2025 Assessing Services and 2022-2024 Cyclical Inspections

Public Comment:

Bonnie Haubrich discussed the following with the selectmen:

- She has been in contact with the attorney regarding Pappas v Grafton.
- Inquired about the Sander's property and asked if there was an update. The selectmen will be speaking with the town attorney regarding the matter.
- Inquired about the Halford property and if there has been any progress. Steve stated that he is waiting to hear back from a surveyor.
- Bonnie is disappointed that the Budget Committee lowered her budgets.
- Bonnie applied for the CARES Grant, specifically for the elections. The amount that is estimated to be awarded is \$1,200. Bonnie would like to use it to pay the election workers and is asking for the Board's approval. Cindy stated that she would like to read over the grant application and award verbiage prior to making any decisions. Both Jennie and Steve concurred with Cindy.
- The pay online program is up and running. There was a glitch when first launched, but it has since been remedied and is working fine.

Final Comments from Selectmen:

Steve inquired if there are any outstanding money warrant articles that needed to be encumbered. WA#9, \$3,000 for historical records is the only one outstanding. Cindy motioned to encumber the \$3,000 for historical records. Jennie second. Steve agreed. Motion passed.

The selectmen will be meeting on Wednesday, December 30, 2020, 10am at the Town Office to discuss warrant articles for the 2021 Town Warrant.

Cindy commented that the 2021 Deliberative Session is on Saturday, January 30th. She inquired as to where the session will take place. No decisions have been made.

Cindy submitted a proposed breakdown of the ambulance budget. The breakdown shows what will be paid for with the operating budget vs. the revolving account. She will present the breakdown to the ambulance department during their meeting that night.

Cindy inquired if Jennie or Steve have heard of Art Edmiston dumping more tires on his Johnson Lane property. This led to a discussion about Art moving his MH onto Church Street.

A discussion about the December 8, 2020 meeting was brought up. The selectmen will be sending a follow-up letter to the property owner.

Jennie motioned to adjourn. Cindy second. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:33am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Smith, Administrative Assistant