

**Town of Grafton
Board of Selectmen
Tuesday, December 18, 2018**

Members Present: Jennie Joyce, Chairman, Leon Dugan, Steve Darrow, Sue Smith (recorder)

Others Present: Ed Grinley, Bob Bassett, Maureen O'Reilly, Andrew Cushing, Russell Poitras

The meeting was called to order at 6pm.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Steve motioned to accept the minutes of December 4, 2018. Jennie second. Leon abstained. Motion passed.

Selectmen Announcements:

Steve announced that a group of volunteers have purchased and placed the lights on the pine tree at the Town Common. There will be a tree lighting event at the Town Common on Saturday, December 22, 2018 at 3:30pm. All are invited to attend.

Ex-Officio Reports: None

Public Comment: None

Appointments:

Andrew Cushing met with the Board to discuss the parsonage that is located next to the E. Grafton Christian Union Church. Andrew stated that he is part of a group called the Mascoma Valley Preservation and they would like to rehab and rent the parsonage. The group is in the process of applying for 501(c) 3 status and hopes to have the application approved and finalized by the end of February 2019. Andrew also stated that he understood that the parsonage is part of the E. Grafton Christian Union Church lease agreement between the Town of Grafton and the Grafton Historical Society. Steve stated that the Board will be reviewing all the leases with the Historical Society and would like to make them all uniform to expire at the same time. Steve also stated that the Board plans to remove the parsonage from the lease due to the insurance company condemning the building for safety reasons. The reviewing of the leases will take place sometime during the 1st quarter of 2019. Both Leon and Steve stated that they would be willing to listen to a proposal regarding the future of the parsonage before making any decisions.

Bob Bassett and Russell Poitras met with the Board to discuss the possibility of paying at least two truck payments before the end of the year. Russell stated that during the Budget Committee meeting on Tuesday, December 11th, Russell stated that he could use the remaining amount of monies in his budget to at least pay two truck payments and then in March 2019 to have Bob make the final two payments of the trucks. This plan would pay the trucks off a year early. Bob stated that with the remaining amounts in the Police Budget and Highway Budget, the two payments could be made by December 31, 2018. The Board reviewed the overall budget and stated that it could be possible to pay the trucks off by the end of this year after next week's invoice payments and payroll. A call will be made to the lease

company to find out if there will be any penalties and to get a figure of final payment for December 31, 2018. Steve motioned to use the excess money in the budget to pay off as many as four (4) truck lease payments as possible on December 31, 2018. Leon second. Jennie agreed. Motion passed.

New Business:

Encumbrance of 2018 Monies – Warrant Article #13 in the amount of \$3,000 for the restoration of historical records has not been spent due to the invoice not being submitted until early 2019. After a brief discussion, Steve motioned to encumber WA #13 in the amount of \$3,000 for the restoration of historical records. Leon second. Motion passed.

Drafting of Warrant Articles – The Board reviewed and discussed the following money warrant articles requested from department managers that will be placed on the 2019 Town Warrant:

- \$20,000 to the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund
- \$35,000 to the Highway Capital Reserve Fund
- \$40,000 for paving roads
- \$20,000 to the Roll-Off Truck Capital Reserve Fund
- \$20,000 to the Fire Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund
- \$5,000 to the Town Hall Repairs Capital Reserve Fund
- \$9,000 to the New Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund
- \$3,000 for Town’s historical records
- \$5,200 for a computer systems CAD/GIS for local hazards mitigation plan.

The Library Trustees submitted a request for \$25,000 to be placed into the Library Capital Reserve Fund. After a brief discussion, the selectmen approved the request.

The following warrant articles will be sent to the Town’s attorney for review and help with correct wording:

- Withdrawing \$120,056 from the unassigned fund balance to be used toward municipal complex improvements. This money is left over from the Fire Station Heating System warrant article that expires at the end of this year.
- Changing the name of the Recreation Field Shelter Capital Reserve Fund to a Municipal Building Improvement Capital Reserve Fund.
- Increasing the stipend of the Selectmen from \$2000 a year to \$3500 a year.

Other Business/Correspondence:

Action Item List – no updates to report.

The Board had a brief discussion about stopping the practice of reimbursing private 501(c) 3 organizations, namely the Fire and Ambulance Auxiliary. Other private organizations in town do not request such reimbursements. After the discussion, Steve motioned that the Town will no longer reimburse the Fire and Ambulance Auxiliary and other private 501(c) 3 organizations. Jennie second. Leon agreed. Motion passed.

The Board reviewed and discussed the following correspondence:

- Letter from the Budget Committee stating the Selectmen budget was accepted as is.

- Letter from Mitchell Municipal re: PSNH Tax Abatement Cases. Mitchell Municipal informed the Town that they have had to enlist Chris Boldt and Eric Maher from DTC Law Firm to help with the litigation process. Mitchell Municipal asked the Board to accept this re-arrangement by signing the letter. After a brief discussion, Steve motioned to accept the re-arrangement per the recommendation from Mitchell Municipal. Leon second. Jennie agreed. Motion passed. Jennie signed the letter.
- Letter from Community Economic Development Services
- Approval for Operation for Map 2 Lot 817
- Letter from NHDRA regarding the 2018 Equalization values
- Update on a tax payment agreement

Public Comment:

Bob informed the Board that he ordered a sand spreader for the 2009 truck from Viking-Cives. It will be here in two weeks. Bob also stated that the insurance company will pay for half of the cost as the original sander was totaled due to parts not being available.

Maureen O'Reilly inquired if the selectmen would be willing to add a new line item to the budget for beautifying the town. Jennie asked how much money would be needed for the line item. Maureen stated that she had not thought about the amount. Steve stated that he wouldn't rule out the idea but would rather see a plan per project to determine the amount. Leon stated that he would rather have volunteers come before the Board to ask for funding for specific projects instead of making a new line item. Both Steve and Jennie agreed with Leon and the Board will not be adding a new line item to the budget.

Maureen also inquired if the selectmen will be discussing the possibility of a noise ordinance. The selectmen stated that they will not be discussing it anytime soon. Steve also stated that he is reserving judgment on the race track/mud pit near his house. Only one event took place and it ended early due to snow. Most of the noise Steve heard was equal to the noise during the construction of the racetrack and that was not very loud.

Ed Grinley inquired about the warrant article for the Emergency Management computer system and why it was needed. The selectmen stated that it is the software that is needed for keeping track of culverts and updates for the Hazard Mitigation plan. Bob also stated that it is good for FEMA related projects.

Final Comments from the Selectmen:

Jennie informed the Board that she received pricing for purchasing solar lights for the flag poles located at the Recreation Field, Town Office complex and Town Common from Ed Grinley. Each light is about \$35 dollars and a volunteer has offered to purchase the lights and place them at each of the flag poles. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to have the solar lights purchased by Ed and to reimburse him the cost of the lights.

Leon motioned to adjourn. Steve second. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,