

Town of Grafton
Deliberative Session
Saturday, February 11, 2023

Present: Steve Kudlik, Moderator, Jennie Joyce, Leif Hogue, Cindy Kudlik, Selectmen, Ed Grinley, Maureen O'Reilly, Sandra Griffin, Catherine Mulholland, Budget Committee, George Curran, Denise Smith, Susan Feinberg, Supervisors of the Checklist and Bonnie Haubrich, Town Clerk.

Moderator Steve Kudlik called the meeting to order at 10:00am. He welcomed those in attendance and asked that all cell phones be silenced and asked all to stand to the Pledge of Allegiance. He further went on to thank those who had helped clean and prepare the Fire and Ambulance Station for the meeting. Moderator Kudlik went on to introduce the town officials and the counters for today (Steve Darrow and Mitchell Briggs). He asked all to be civil and presented his rules for today's meeting. He informed the voters that only 1 amendment will be allowed on the floor at a time and that he would not accept "moving the question" until everyone has had the opportunity to speak.

2) Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant, or as amended by the vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein totaling \$1,291,756. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$1,188,477, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous actions of the Town of Grafton or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised budget only. It excludes special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately.

General Government

Executive	\$68,220
Elections/Town Clerk	40,285
Financial Administration	44,714
Reappraisal of Property	19,240
Legal Expense	20,000
FICA/Medicare	28,000
Planning Board	200
General Government Buildings	44,050
Cemeteries	12,250
Insurance	100,274
Advertising/Regional Dues	1,620
Contingency	2,000
Subtotal	\$380,853

Public Safety

Police	\$209,992
Ambulance	44,694
Fire Department	30,000
Emergency Management	100
Forest Fire Warden	500
Dispatch Fees	25,557
Subtotal	\$310,843

Highway and Streets	
Highway and Streets	\$432,250
Street Lights	4,200
Subtotal	\$436,450
 Solid Waste	
	\$111,050
 Health and Welfare	
Health Agencies	\$9,200
Public Assistance	14,350
Subtotal	\$23,550
 Culture and Recreation	
Parks & Recreation	\$7,670
Library	21,040
Patriotic Purposes	300
Subtotal	\$27,010
 Debt Service	
Tax Anticipation Note (TAN)	\$0
 <u>Operating Budget Total</u>	<u>\$1,291,756</u>

Andrew Cushing, Chair, Grafton Library Trustee, stated that the Selectboard had actually increased the budget request factoring in increase in electricity and heat, but the Budget Committee had decreased the budget, therefore he was asking for an additional \$2000 to cover the increase in costs. **Motion by Andrew Cushing and seconded by Sue Jukosky.** Ed Grinley, Budget Committee stated that the Budget Committee had looked at the Library budget over the past 8-10 years and the budget was traditionally unspent. He noted that the budget had a balance of \$2971.84 at the end of this year. Elaina Bergamini said that Departments should be praised if they underspend and that underspending is a good thing. Gary Whitney asked if the current request addressed the fact that the Librarian had not been replaced, which meant no need for a salary for that position at this time. Deb Clough responded that the Library has been open to the public for regular hours and that she had been hired temporarily. It was noted that the Library also does gross budgeting and the Trustees were able to put more money towards services this year. Steve Darrow stated that Danbury has a similar size Library as ours but their budget is significantly lower. Dan Moore stated that it is unrealistic not to factor in increased energy costs. Pam Curran (Prescott Hill RD) said that she had contacted the area electric companies and that costs were going to decrease 10%. Heather Hunter moved the question. **Vote: Yes 35 No: 27 Amendment Passed. Motion by Bonnie Haubrich to limit reconsideration. Seconded by Elaina Bergamini. Yes: 51 No: 2 Motion passed.**

3) To see if the Town of Grafton will vote to readopt the provisions of RSA 72:28b, All Veterans' Tax Credit. If readopted, the credit will be available to any resident of this state who is a veteran, as defined in RSA 21:50, and served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the United States and continues to serve or was honorably discharged or an officer who continues to serve or was honorably separated from service; or the spouse or

surviving spouse of such resident, provided that training for active duty or state active duty by a member of the national guard or reserve shall be included as service under this paragraph; provided however that the person is not eligible for and is not receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35. If readopted, the credit granted will be \$500, the same amount as the previously approved Standard or Optional Veterans' Tax Credit voted by the Town of Grafton under RSA 72:28.

The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.

Cindy Kudlik stated that the Department of Revenue Administration recommended placing this on the Warrant. It will include National Guard and active members. No Amendments. **Motion to Limit Reconsideration by Jennie Joyce. Seconded by Heather Hunter. Yes: 55 No: 1**

4) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred sixty three thousand fifty nine dollars (\$263,059) for the purchase of a 2023 Braun Ambulance, and to fund this appropriation with a \$50,000 USDA grant anticipated to be received in April 2023, \$30,000 from the Town's unspent ARPA funds, \$20,000 from the Ambulance Revolving Account, and by authorizing the withdrawal of \$163,059 from the already established Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund. In the event of a shortfall in available grant funds, the Selectboard may use its authority per RSA 31:59-h to expend additional funds from the Ambulance Revolving Account to make up the shortfall. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI, and will not lapse until the ambulance purchase is completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever is sooner. No amount to be raised from additional taxation.

The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.

Kathy Lund, Ambulance Captain spoke on this Article. She stated that presently it is taking 18-24 months from order date to receiving date for a new ambulance. She stated that Heather Hunter has been working diligently on a grant from the USDA to offset the price. She further noted that it is unknown at present how much that grant will be.

Amendment by Kathy Lund to read: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred sixty three thousand fifty nine dollars (\$263,059) for the purchase of a 2023 Braun Ambulance, and to fund this appropriation with a \$92,070 USDA grant anticipated to be received in April 2023, \$30,000 from the Town's unspent ARPA funds, \$20,000 from the Ambulance Revolving Account, and by authorizing the withdrawal of \$163,059 from the already established Ambulance Capital Reserve Fund. In the event of a shortfall in available grant funds, the Selectboard may use its authority per RSA 31:59-h to expend additional funds from the Ambulance Revolving Account to make up the shortfall. This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI, and will not lapse until the ambulance purchase is completed or by December 31, 2024, whichever is sooner. No amount to be raised from additional taxation.

Cindy stated that the grant at this time is unknown and that the Ambulance Captain had not discussed this with the Selectboard. She further noted that the Town Attorney had indicated that it should stay as written. Heather noted that she had spoken with the contact at the USDA and they had indicated that they normally cover at least 32% of the cost and that person suggested the \$92,070. Cindy noted that the application has not even been completed as of yet. Heather stated that the contact at the USDA noted that usually these articles are not put on the Warrant to be voted on. Steve Kudlik asked if the Town votes to raise and appropriate does it mean that the

Town will need to come up with additional funds if the grant is not received. Kathy Lund responded that the monies would then come out of the Ambulance Revolving Account, not from taxation. Ed Grinley asked if the Revolving Account has enough money, if this should happen. Kathy Lund responded that the Revolving Account does have \$92,000 right now but ½ of the Ambulance budget comes from the Revolving Account. She further noted that if the funds are not available the Town is not obligated to accept the ambulance. Russell Gover stated that the Town needs an ambulance. **Cindy Kudlik motioned to move the question. Seconded by Heather Hunter. Vote to accept Amendment to Article #4: Yes: 48 No: 10 Amendment Passed.**

Limit Reconsideration by Bonnie Haubrich, Seconded by Heather Hunter. Yes: 51 No: 1

5) To see if the Town will vote to adopt RSA 41:14a to give the Select Board authority to acquire or sell land, buildings, or both, and to demolish or otherwise dispose of buildings after recommendation of the Planning Board and a Public Hearing.

The Selectmen recommend this article.

Amendment to Article #5 by Cindy Kudlik and seconded by David Hunter, which reads: To see if the Town will vote to Adopt RSA 41:14a to give the Select Board authority to acquire or sell land, buildings, or both, and to demolish or otherwise dispose of buildings after recommendation of the Planning Board and two Public Hearings.

Cindy Kudlik stated that this was purely a housekeeping amendment as the law requires 2 public hearings, not one. Sabrina Kirwin, member on the Planning Board, stated that she did not understand how the Planning Board has authority to render an opinion on this matter. Cindy Kudlik responded that it is what the RSA dictates. Much discussion followed regarding how or when the Board would become involved. Would eminent domain play a role in this? Jennie Joyce responded that it would apply if property was “gifted” to the Town and that the Town does not purchase property. Ryan Huff stated that it sounded too much like eminent domain. He further stated that it appears to give too much power given to the Selectboard. David Hunter asked what the motivation was for this article. Cindy Kudlik responded that it was the 2nd or 3rd time on the Warrant. Steve Darrow noted that it is simply a recommendation by the Planning Board. Tom McGinty noted that there are numerous properties that the Town owns and need to get permission to sell some of them and put them back on the tax rolls. Deb Clough asked how the town had acquired property in the past without this permission. Cindy stated that none of the present Selectmen were on the Board back then, so she could not answer that. Discussion followed as to where funds would come from for any demolition that would need to take place. Jeremy Olson asked if in the past individual articles had been placed on the Warrant to address these issues. Cindy indicated that had been the case. Ed Grinley stated that the Town needs to be careful not to acquire land that might include hazardous waste that needs to be cleaned up.

Vote on Amendment Article #5: Yes: 64 No: 6 Amendment Passed.

Motion to move the question by Andrew Cushing and seconded by Cindy Kudlik.

6) To see if the Town will vote to change the Police Chief’s position to an appointed position effective 2024.

The Selectmen recommend this article.

Cindy Kudlik presented an **Amendment to Article #6 which read: To see if the Town will vote to change the Police Chief position to an appointed position effective March 13, 2024.**

If this article is adopted, then the police chief elected under Article 1 shall serve a 1-yr term rather than a 3-year term. Cindy stated that this was simply a housekeeping amendment to include the date it is to take effect. When asked if this was necessary Cindy stated that it would allow them to hire outside of Grafton and given the state qualifications it would make it easier to get a certified person to fill the position. Leif Hogue explained that if someone were to win and was not certifiable the Town would be obligated to pay their salary as well as a person that could be certified. Brad Wilder asked what the difference was. Mitchell Briggs, Police Chief, gave an example saying that a person with a felon could get elected but would not be accepted by the Police Academy to get certified. **Motion to move the question by Cindy Kudlik, seconded by Elaina Bergamini. Vote on Amendment # 6: Yes 53 No: 5 Amendment Passed.**

7) To see if the Town will vote to rescind Article 6 on the 2014 Warrant that named the Library Trustees agents to expend from the Library Capital Reserve Fund.
The Selectmen recommend this article.

Elaina Bergamini asked how the Trustees would move forward with necessary repairs if it required a vote of town meeting to expend from the Capital Reserve account. She noted that it has been very efficient how the process works now. Jennie Joyce stated that the Town would be obligated to find the necessary funds somewhere. Cindy Kudlik noted that the Town could hold a special meeting or take funds from the Government Building account. Elaina stated that this article is not necessary as the Trustees of the Library are very fiscally responsible. Sue Jukosky asked if there are any other departments (Trustees) that spend from a Capital Reserve. Cindy Kudlik answered that there are none. **Motion to move the question by Cindy Kudlik and seconded by Heather Hunter. Motion to Limit Reconsideration to Articles #5, 6 and 7 by Elaina Bergamini and seconded by Heather Hunter. Vote: Yes: 58 No: 1**

8) To see if the Town will vote to instruct the Trustees of the Trust Funds to have Three Bearings discontinue the Rec Field Shelter Capital Reserve Fund and transfer the remaining balance and interest to the Town's General Fund.
The Selectmen recommend this article.

Jennie Joyce stated that this is an old Capital Reserve Fund with a balance of \$.02. Motion to move the question by Cindy and seconded by Heather Hunter.

9) To see if the Town will vote to establish a Historical Records Restoration Capital Reserve Fund and to raise and appropriate five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in said fund, and further to appoint the Selectmen Agents to Expend.
The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.

Amendment to Article #9 by Heather Hunter and seconded by Brad Wilder to read: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Historical Records Restoration Capital Reserve Fund and to raise and appropriate five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in said fund, and further to appoint the Town Clerk Agents to Expend.

Jennie Joyce stated that the Board thought it was better to place \$5000 a year into a Capital Reserve fund instead of the individual warrant article every year of \$3000. Cindy Kudlik noted that according to an email from the Town Clerk there are still 35 books that need to be restored.

Bonnie Haubrich, Town Clerk, noted that although there are 35 more books not all of them are critical to restore in the near future. Lex Berezhny asked where these records are stored. Bonnie stated that they are kept in fireproof file cabinets. Russell Gover stated that Bonnie Haubrich does a good job as Town Clerk and manages her office well. Steve Darrow asked what has been spent to date. Bonnie responded that she did not have that information available today. Bonnie Haubrich further noted that it makes no sense to have the Selectboard names as agents as the Town Clerk works with the restoration company and identify which records should be done and in which order. **Motion to move the question by Jennie Joyce and seconded by Deb Clough. Vote on Amendment to Article #9: Yes: 62 Nay: 0 Amendment passed.**

10) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) to be placed in the previously established Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund.

The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.

Buddy McDow spoke on this Article. He stated that there is presently about \$235,000 in the Capital Reserve and that a new fire engine now costs about \$500,000. Gary Whitney asked if there has been a plan in place moving forward for replacements for equipment. He noted that he was told last year that there would be a plan moving forward addressing these issues. Much discussion followed regarding the need for a Capital Improvement Plan which would address a lot of these issues. **Motion to move the question by Elaina Bergamini and seconded by Heather Hunter. Motion to Limit Reconsideration to Articles #8, 9 and 10 by Elaina Bergamini and seconded by Heather Hunter. Vote: Yes: 56 No: 1**

11) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) to be placed in the previously established Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund.

The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.

Leif Hogue stated that this is necessary as much of our equipment is more than 30 years old. Shirley Greenlee asked if this included the repairs for the recent truck that was in an accident. Leif responded that the insurance will address that problem. **Motion to move the question by Cindy Kudlik and seconded by Heather Hunter.**

12) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) to be placed in the previously established Bridge Capital Reserve Fund, this sum to come from the unreserved fund balance. No amount to be raised from additional taxation.

The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.

Leif Hogue explained that the Town receives monies from the State of New Hampshire towards bridge repairs/replacements. The last bridge to be replaced was on the Kinsman and it cost \$100,000. Jennie Joyce added that the Town needs funds to meet the state portion and said that state monies will not be available until 2035.

13) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) for the purpose of paving town roads.

The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.

Leif Hogue stated that the Road Agent had been too busy the last couple of weeks to compile a list of roads and order of repair. Jeremy Olson asked how much paving can be done for this money. Leif stated about 1 mile of paving. 14) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the previously established Recycling Capital Reserve Fund.

14) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the previously established Recycling Capital Reserve Fund.

The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommends this article.

Jennie Joyce stated that these funds are used for testing of the monitor wells at the Recycling Center and repairs should any need to be done. Lex Berezchny asked if the Town makes money from recycling and how much. Jennie affirmed this to be true but unsure how much per year.

Motion to move the question by Jennie Joyce and seconded by Leif Hogue. Motion to Limit Reconsideration by Jennie Joyce and seconded by Elaina Bergamini. Vote: Yes: 55 No: 1

15) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in the previously established Town Hall Repairs Capital Reserve Fund.

The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommend this article.

Leif Hogue stated that this will cover maintenance and repairs to the Town Hall. **Motion to move the question by Cindy Kudlik and seconded by Elaina Bergamini.**

16) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) to be placed in the previously established Property Tax Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund.

The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommend this article.

Leif Hogue explained that the Town is on a 5-year assessment rotation as per the contract the Town has with Avitar Associates. Avitar does 20% of the Town yearly. Jennie noted that the State requires reassessment of the Town every 5 years. Yaakov Abuhar asked if the Town would change assessors where would that money go. Blake Wilder asked if the Town is indebted to Avitar. Jennie Joyce responded that the Town is not indebted to Avitar. Blake Wilder asked if the Town has experienced problems with Avitar. The Selectboard stated that they were not aware of any. Elaina Bergamini asked Brad if the problem that had existed was due to Avitar not informing property owners of going of their property. Brad stated that he understood that was a problem. **Motion to move the question by Elaina Bergamini and seconded by Heather Hunter.**

17) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) to be placed in the previously established Veterans Park Capital Reserve Fund.

The Selectmen recommend this article/Budget Committee recommend this article.

Leif Hogue stated that these funds were being raised for a memorial stone on the Grafton Common. Pamela Curran asked how much is presently in the Capital Reserve and what is the goal. Jim Griffin, Grafton Legion President stated that the costs will cover the stone and any additional engraving needed in the future. He states that the Legion is paying for the concrete pad. He noted that at present there are approximately 20 names to be added. Lorraine Clough asked if the Town had considered selling brick

pavers to help defer the cost. **Motion to move the question by Heather Hunter and seconded by Jennie Joyce.**

18) To see if the Town of Grafton shall require a search warrant to enter private land for the purpose of an investigation against a land owner or its inhabitants, unless permission of it's owner is expressed. Government investigators shall be made aware, and have a responsibility to know, that they are disallowed on private land for that, as at least civil trespassing, regardless of no signage. The Town of Grafton shall annually send or confirm a letter on file to notice this article with all government investigative agencies with expected searches in Grafton (including the sheriff, fish and game, FBI, ATF, etc.). Copies are to be publicly available. Any information or evidence collected in disagreement with this article for ongoing issues shall be immediately invalidated and returned, and resulting penalties shall be dropped.

(By Petition)

Ryan Huff stated that the current law suit against a property owner and Sharon Clark and the Town could have been avoided. He noted that a health violation done by a Town official had caused this law suit. Jennie Joyce corrected Mr. Huff by saying that the Town is not suing the deceased, Sharon Clark but it would cost the Town to actually have her name removed from the petition and that she had never been served. Blake Wilder noted that the Town officials should not go on private property without permission. Ryan Huff noted that this article is to stop the pending law suit. Jeremy Olson asked the Selectboard if legal counsel indicated if this article was enforceable. Cindy Kudlik noted that legal counsel said it was not enforceable. Discussion ensued whether police or the Health Office has a legal right to enter property and discussion regarding Sharon Clerk. The Selectmen responded that they would not comment of the issue as there is litigation going on. At this point Steve Kudlik turned the meeting over the Steve Darrow, Moderator Pro-tem. Steve Darrow noted that this discussion was not pertinent to the Article and shut off discussion. Sue Jukosky stated that she appreciated all of the Town volunteers and Town officials for the jobs they do. **Motion to move the question by Sue Jukosky and seconded by Heather Hunter. Motion to Limit Consideration for Articles #15-18 by Elaina Bergamini and seconded by David Hunter. Vote: Yes: 64 No: 1**

19) Will the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$210,000 for the purposes of constructing the first phase of a new library at 2 Library Road also known as the "Gray Lot" donated to the Town for this express purpose. \$40,000 to come from the existing library improvement capital reserve fund and \$170,000 to be accepted as a gift from the Friends of the Grafton Library (FOGL). This phase will include the pouring of a concrete slab; the assembly of a barn frame, already acquired and disassembled by FOGL; a roof; and exterior envelope. Further, to delegate the construction of the library to the Library Trustees. No money to be raised from taxation.

(By Petition) The Selectmen do not recommend this article/Budget Committee do not recommend this article.

Andrew Cushing, Trustee of the Library, stated that since 1986 the Master Plan identified problems with the existing library. He noted that the future plans are on the internet for review. He noted that a Civil Engineer has done a site plan. He noted that the electric needs will be met by energy savings. Cindy Kudlik stated that the Board had received legal opinion and the \$40,000 in the Library Improvement Capital Reserve cannot be used for this purpose. Andrew Cushing stated that the Trustees had also spoke with a different attorney and was given a different opinion. Elaina clarified that the \$170,000 includes funds that have already been spent to date and included sweat equity such as disassembly of barn, grants and anonymous donors. Dan Moore stated that he felt the vote taken by the FOGL group to go forward with this endeavor was not legal as the President, his wife, Aimee was in the hospital and not present to

vote. Elaina Bergamini responded that there was definitely a quorum present and the vote legal. John Babiarz noted that this is Phase 1 and wanted to know how many phases there were. He asked if there is a plan available to review and if it carried an engineer's stamp. Andrew Cushing stated that findings and recommendations will be shared before election day. Gary Whitney stated that the Planning Board, of which he is a member, has not taken a stand on this issue. In 2014 it was recommended that the Town not accept this property and that no Town funds be used for this purpose. Ed Grinley noted that Elaina admitted that FOGL has not yet raised all of the money and what happens if donations do not come in. He also asked what is to happen if hazardous waste is discovered and has to be dealt with. He also said that the Recreation Shack on the recreation field was presented as a complete project with figures for construction. Is there an end cost? Yaakov Abuhar asked if this meant 2 libraries would be maintained. Elaina said that once vacated the present building could be used in some other capacity for the Town. She also noted that FOGL has 2 purposes (1) aid the taxpayers in the project and support the programming and mission of the library. She also noted that the Library could not be compared to the Recreation Shack and that FOGL has been working very hard with a strategic plan. David Hunter asked if the Town officials had considered privatizing the Library. Andrew Cushing stated that in 1891 the Town voted to have and maintain a Library. He noted that the Library has great volunteers who want to partner with the Town in this endeavor. Sue Jukosky stated that it is a place for the community to come together and for children. Cindy Kudlik stated that the strategic plan addressed 10 steps and to date only 3 have been completed and no septic or well designs have been completed.

Amendment by Cindy Kudlik and seconded by Gary Whitney to read, Will the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$0 for the purposes of constructing the first phase of a new library at 2 Library Road also known as the "Gray Lot" donated to the Town for this express purpose. \$0 to come from the existing library improvement capital reserve fund and \$0 to be accepted as a gift from the Friends of the Grafton Library (FOGL). This phase will include the pouring of a concrete slab; the assembly of a barn frame, already acquired and disassembled by FOGL; a roof; and exterior envelope. Further, to delegate the construction of the library to the Library Trustees. No money to be raised from taxation.

Sue Jukosky stated that she disagreed with this amendment as the voters should decide. Ryan Huff asked if an electric and heat study has been done. Elaina Bergamini affirmed that they have been done. Cindy Kudlik stated that there are too many unknowns. Russell Gover asked if the FOGL members had been told ahead of time of the Board's opinion. Cindy Kudlik stated they had and that the plans are still not fully formed. David Hunter asked, if they were privatized, could the Town then contribute. Cindy Kudlik stated that, "possibly....maybe". Deb Clough encouraged the public to attend the meetings and hearings, which are always open to the public. She further stated that the only Selectman who was supportive was John Sullivan and that the present Board has only put obstacles in the way, such as the picnic table and holiday decorations. Elaina noted that professional stamps and plans cost money and that they were fortunate that they obtain "free" labor for engineering and architectural designs. Ed Grinley noted that the Warrant Article requires a 3/5 vote. Elaina explained the process of writing grants and over applying for grants. She also noted that the total cost is still vetting. At last year's costs it was estimated at \$650,000. Shirley Greenlee suggested getting state approval for septic. Elaina noted that the property already has septic and well. Tom McGinty stated that he envisions quite a few problems with this project. He stated that the Town cannot accept donations over \$5000 without a public hearing. He referenced that the same people are on MVP (Mascoma Valley Preservation) and that it may be problematic completing this project. Andrew Cushing and Elaina Bergamini noted that the MVP has no bearing whatsoever in this discussion. Deb Clough noted that the Town can indeed accept monies over \$5000. Maureen O'Reilly stated that FOGL should get all its ducks in a row and come back next year.

Motion to move the question by Brad Wilder and seconded by Deb Clough. Request for secret ballot by Tom McGinty with signatures of 8 voters present.

Vote on Amendment to Article #19. Yes: 28 No: 43 Motion failed.

Amendment for Article #19 by Diane Burrington and seconded by Cindy Kudlik to read as follows: Will the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$210,000 for the purposes of constructing the first phase of a new library at 2 Library Road also known as the "Gray Lot" donated to the Town for this express purpose. \$40,000 to come from the existing library improvement capital reserve fund and \$170,000 to be accepted as a gift from the Friends of the Grafton Library (FOGL). This phase will include the pouring of a concrete slab; the assembly of a barn frame, already acquired and disassembled by FOGL; a roof; and exterior envelope. Further, to delegate the construction of the library to the Library Trustees. No money to be raised from taxation. This article is contingent upon the receipt of the entire \$170,000 donation from FOGL and also upon an additional \$40,000 donation from FOGL in the event that funds are not available from the CRF, and this article shall not take effect if these entire amounts are not received by the Town during this budget year. Jeremy Olson noted that this takes the burden off the hook. Lex Berezhny stated that this would ensure nothing happens until the monies are available. Motion to move the question by Brad Wilder and seconded by Cindy Kudlik.

Vote: Yes: 38 No: 23 Amendment Passed.

Motion to Limit Reconsideration by Elaina and seconded by Heather Hunter. Vote: Yes: 58 No: 1

20) To see if the Town of Grafton shall require a Building Notification for buildings only, including manufactured housing. A building has been and continues to be defined as a structure (permanently fixed to the ground) with permanent siding and a roof. All vehicles, boats, tents, RVs, tent carports, campers (custom or otherwise), and other mobile or temporary structures, are exempt.

(By petition)

Ryan Huff stated this Article would put an end to the current law suit. Pam Curran asked if this would affect other permits such as driveway permits. Bill Robinson asked if this includes tiny houses that are on wheels. Cindy noted that it does not require a building notification but the Board appreciates notification. Ryan Huff noted that this Article cleans up the definition for the building notification permit. Yaakov Abuhar asked if it pertained to uninhabited structures. Tom McGinty stated that if you Google the definition it refers to 15A, what constitutes permanently affixed structure.

Amendment by Leif Hogue, seconded by Cindy Kudlik that reads: To see if the Town of Grafton shall require a Building Notification for all inhabitable containers or structures, including all vehicles, boats, tents, RVs, tent carports, campers (custom or otherwise), other mobile or temporary structures, and manufactured or factory built housing. Jeremy Olson stated that the state law prohibits changing the intent of an article. Steve Kudlik, Moderator clarified that the law prohibits changing subject matter, but does not limit changing intent. Russell Gover noted that the law requires a dwelling have electricity and septic. Steve Kudlik, speaking as the Health Officer, stated that electricity and septic are not mandated by State law. **Motion to move the question by Cindy Kudlik and seconded by Leif Hogue. Amendment to Article #20 Vote: Yes: 18 No: 32 Motion failed.**

Amendment to Article #20 by Brad Wilder and seconded by Heather Hunter but immediately withdrawn.

Amendment to Article #20 by David Hunter and seconded by Jeremy Olson to read: To see if the Town of Grafton shall require a Building Notification for occupied or inhabited buildings only, including manufactured housing. A building has been and continues to be defined as a structure (permanently fixed to the ground) with permanent siding and a roof. All vehicles, boats, tents, RVs, tent carports, campers (custom or otherwise), and other mobile or temporary structures, are exempt. **Motion to move the question by Heather Hunter and seconded by Ryan Huff. Vote on Amendment on Article #20: Vote: Yes 27 No: 22**

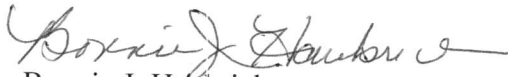
Motion to Limit Reconsideration on Article #20 by Jeremy Olson and seconded by Heather Hunter. Vote: Yes: 41 No: 1

Moderator Kudlik announced that there will be a Candidate's Night held on March 1, 2023 at 6:30pm at the Town Hall.

Cindy Kudlik, Selectboard announced that the Selectmen will hold a meeting on Monday, February 13th at 4:30pm to discuss or amend their recommendations on Articles #4 and #19.

Moderator Kudlik adjourned the meeting at 2:46pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Bonnie J. Haubrich
Town Clerk