

# Budget Committee Town of Grafton, New Hampshire

## *Minutes of January 12, 2017 Public Hearing on the 2018 Proposed Budget*

*Present:* Ed Grinley, Chair; Catherine Mulholland, Pamela Curran, Jennie Joyce (Select Board ex officio), and Sandi Pierson (clerical).

*Others present:* Steve Darrow, Cindy and Steve Kudlick, and Travis Anderson.

*Budget Committee meeting opened at 6:00 PM (prior to the public hearing).*

*Minutes:* The December 20, 2017 minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

*Warrant articles:* The Budget Committee reviewed the following warrant articles and made their recommendations:

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) to be placed in the previously established Bridge Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this article.

The Committee discussed which bridges are currently on the State's red list. It was noted that at present this reserve has a balance of \$118,000. After discussion Ed motioned for the Committee to recommend this article. Catherine seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) to be placed in the previously established Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund. The Selectmen recommend this article.

Pam stated that this reserve has a balance of \$87,000. After discussion Catherine motioned for the Committee to recommend this article. Pam seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for the purpose of paving town roads. The Selectmen recommend this article.

After discussion Jennie motioned for the Committee to recommend this article. Catherine seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the purpose of placing ledge pack on town dirt roads.  
The Selectmen recommend this article.

The Committee expressed their confusion on when the hardpack process would conclude, given they have been given conflicting dates from the road agent. After discussion Catherine motioned for the Committee to recommend this article. Jennie seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to be placed in the previously established Library Capital Reserve Fund.  
The Selectmen recommend this article.

Pam said this capital reserve has a balance of \$51,000. It was noted that definitive plans for a new library or library renovation is still unclear. After discussion Jennie motioned for the Committee to recommend this article. Ed seconded. Jennie, Ed, and Pam voted in favor. Catherine voted in opposition. Motion passed 3/1/0.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the previously established Roll-Off Truck Capital Reserve Fund.  
The Selectmen recommend this article.

After discussion Catherine motioned for the Committee to recommend this article. Jennie seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

- 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 Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund.  
The Selectmen recommend this article.

After discussion Jennie motioned for the Committee to recommend this article. Pam seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

- 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.

After discussion Jennie motioned for the Committee to recommend this article. Catherine seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nine thousand dollars (\$9,000) to be placed in the previously established New Police Cruiser Capital Reserve Fund.  
The Selectmen recommend this article.

After discussion Catherine motioned for the Committee to recommend this article. Jennie seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

- 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 Storage Vault Capital Reserve Fund.  
The Selectmen recommend this article.

After discussion Jennie motioned for the Committee to recommend this article. Catherine seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for the restoration of the Town's historical records.  
The Selectmen recommend this article.

After discussion Jennie motioned for the Committee to recommend this article. Catherine seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

- To see if the Town will vote to modify the net income provisions of RSA 72:39-a for elderly exemption from property tax in the Town of Grafton, based on assessed value for qualified tax payers, to be as follows: If Single, not more than (\$25,000) and if Married, a combined income of not more than (\$36,000). The current net income limits are (Single: (\$20,000); Married: (\$27,000)).

The Committee agreed this is considered a "money warrant article" and they should vote on a recommendation. After discussion Jennie motioned for the Committee to recommend this article. Catherine seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

- To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the position of elected Road Agent and to designate the position of appointed Road Agent as Highway Supervisor. If this article passes, then under State Law (RSA 669:17-b) the existing elected position will remain in effect until Town Meeting 2019, at which time the Selectmen will appoint a duly qualified Highway Department Supervisor. (By Petition)

No recommendation required.

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**Public hearing opened at 7 PM**

Ed reviewed the budget in its entirety as proposed by the Budget Committee:

DEPARTMENT	REQUEST	APPROVED
Selectmen	\$303,353.00	\$303,353.00
Welfare	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Planning Board	\$375.00	\$375.00
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$3,159.00	\$3,159.00
Tax Collector	\$18,400.00	\$18,400.00
Town Clerk	\$37,250.00	\$37,250.00
Parks and Recreation	\$3,450.00	\$3,450.00
Emergency Management	\$100.00	\$100.00
Library	\$20,818.00	\$14,114.00
Highway Department	\$394,011.00	\$394,011.00
Police Department	\$192,793.00	\$192,793.00
Fire Department	\$23,652.00	\$22,000.00
Ambulance Department	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Cemetery Department	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Recycling Center	\$81,000.00	\$81,000.00
Fire Warden	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,132,361.00</b>	<b>\$1,124,005.00</b>

**GROSS BUDGETING APPORTIONMENTS**

DEPARTMENT	BUDGET	TOWN	DEPT
Library	\$14,114.00	\$12,114.00	\$2,000.00
Ambulance	\$44,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$19,000.00
Cemetery	\$8,000.00	\$6,700.00	\$1,300.00

Ed entertained questions and comments from those present:

Answering a question from Steve Darrow, Ed explained Russ Poitras's rationale for the need of full-time, detective level officer. Travis Anderson concurred that the money put in the budget for the second officer was appropriate.

Cindy Kudlick expressed her dissatisfaction that two ambulance members who are "co-captains" authorized to pay themselves stipends for the call they went on in 2017. She felt the plan should have first been brought before the Select Board for their approval.

Jennie stated that the replacement of the Wild Meadow bridge is already funded. She also stated that the 1991 highway truck is having problems and may need to be replaced.

There being no more questions or comments, Jennie motioned to close the public hearing at 7:50 PM. Catherine seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Following the public hearing, there were no further comments from the Committee nor alterations to the budget.

Ed noted the following dates:

- Sign-up period to declare a candidacy for an elected office is from January 24 through February 2.
- The school district deliberative session is scheduled for February 3.
- The Grafton Deliberative Session is scheduled for February 10 at the Millbrook Christian Church.

*Meeting adjourned 7:55 PM*

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Pierson