

Town of Grafton, New Hampshire
Deliberative Session
Saturday, February 9, 2017

Present: Steve Kudlik, Moderator, Leon Dugan, Steve Darrow, Jennie Joyce, Selectmen, Ed Grinley, Catherine Mulholland, Pamela Curran, Budget Committee, Dorothy Campbell, Treasurer, George Curran, Deb Black, Marguerite Conley, Supervisors of the Checklist, and Bonnie J. Haubrich, Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

Meeting called to order at 10:01 by Moderator Steve Kudlik.

Moderator Kudlik welcomed those present and thanked the Mill Brook Christian Church for allowing the meeting to take place in their facility.

Pledge of allegiance.

Bonnie Haubrich, Town Clerk was asked to acknowledge the Grafton residents who passed away in the 2018 year.

Moderator Steve Kudlik discussed the rules for the meeting and explained his interpretation of the difference of “subject matter” and “intent”. He referenced RSA 40:13 IV:c.

Moderator Kudlik asked for a motion to waive the Articles 2 through 15 and to read them when the appropriate time came. **Motion by John Babiarz and seconded by Deb Clough. Motion passed.**

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 \$1,192,694. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$1,167,358, 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

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|------------------------------|------------------|
| Executive | \$58,588 |
| Elections/Town Clerk | 37,833 |
| Financial Administration | 43,404 |
| Reappraisal of Property | 22,320 |
| Legal Expense | 25,000 |
| FICA & Medicare | 29,000 |
| Planning Board | 300 |
| General Government Buildings | 42,430 |
| Cemeteries | 8,000 |
| Insurance | 102,727 |
| Advertising/Regional Dues | 1,400 |
| Contingency | 2,000 |
| Subtotal | \$373,002 |

Public Safety

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| Police | \$192,744 |
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| Ambulance | 28,450 |
| Fire Department | 25,450 |
| Emergency Management | 120 |
| Forest Fire Warden | 1,000 |
| Subtotal | \$247,764 |
| Highway and Streets | |
| Highway and Streets | \$430,000 |
| Street Lights | 2,900 |
| Subtotal | \$432,900 |
| Solid Waste | \$87,000 |
| Health and Welfare | |
| Health Agencies | \$8,964 |
| Health Officer | 0 |
| Public Assistance | 20,000 |
| Subtotal | \$28,964 |
| Culture and Recreation | |
| Parks & Recreation | \$3,450 |
| Library | 15,314 |
| Patriotic Purposes | 300 |
| Subtotal | \$19,064 |
| Debt Service | |
| Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) | \$4,000 |
| <u>Operating Budget Total</u> | <u>\$1,192,694</u> |

Moderator Kudlik began reading Article #1. He then asked how the meeting which to proceed, line by line or discussion of the bottom line of the budget. There were no requests to go line by line, therefore it was agreed to discuss the bottom line figure as presented in Article #2. Motion to discuss Article #2 by Deb Clough and seconded by Cindy Kudlik. Jennie Joyce, Selectman, noted that there was a small increase and asked if there were particular questions that needed to be answered. Sandra Griffin asked if the Cemetery budget included the request in Warrant Article #14 of \$75.00 per plot. Jennie responded that it did include the \$75.00 as well as the \$25.00 which goes to the Town.

Cindy Kudlik made a motion to discuss Article #3 and #15 together as they were both pertinent to each other. Angus Gorman seconded the motion. 28 Ayes 0 Nays

3)To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate one hundred nineteen thousand six hundred twenty-eight dollars (\$119,628) for the purpose of repairs or improvements to the municipal complex of buildings (Town office, fire station or police station) with said sum to come from the unassigned fund balance. This is a special warrant article for a 5 year non-lapsing appropriation authorizing expenditures up to a maximum of \$119,628, which is the amount of money left from a manufacturer's warranty rebate on a heating system. This article, if passed, will have no impact on taxation. *The Selectmen recommend this article/the Budget Committee recommends this article.*

Motion to discuss by Cindy Kudlik, seconded by Deb Clough. Deb Clough asked if the Selectboard had a plan for this project and if it included the Fire Department or just the Town Office and Police Department. And what the estimated cost for these renovations. Steve Darrow, Selectman explained

that these funds were actually the balance of the class action suit regarding the fire station heating system, now that the repairs had been made to the boiler/furnace. He explained that the floor did not need to be replaced and that the new boiler/furnace had cured the problem and that these funds needed to be encumbered into a 5-year nonlapsing fund in order for them to be utilized in the future and not be returned to the General Fund. He further noted that there are very real space issues within the Town Office and Police Station. He further stated that the Selectboard would develop a plan this coming year. Ed Grinley stated that the Selectboard would not be able to expend it without coming back to the voters for approval. Deb Clough challenged this statement and asked if the Selectboard were agents to expend without voter approval. Steve stated that the Selectboard were actually agents to expend, which does not require voter approval. Jennie Joyce, Selectman stated that the Board does not spend "willy nilly". Angus Gorman asked if Article #15 would address having the funds in a Capital Reserve fund. Jennie Joyce responded, "sort of". Steve Darrow responded that those funds were already in a Capital Reserve and the purpose was to "repurpose" the funds. Deb Clough noted that she was cautious allowing the Selectboard to expend the funds without the approval of the voters. Bonnie Haubrich cautioned the voters not to start adding language into the Article to place it into Capital Reserves, etc, which could in fact kill the Article with the Department of Revenue Administration, trying to establish a Capital Reserve fund at this meeting. She asked Ed Grinley, Budget Committee if this would in fact void the Article and he affirmed it would. John Babiarcz stated that the fire station floor had presented some issues, but the furnace corrected the problem. He noted that the monies may allow the Police Department to move into the Fire and Ambulance Station with an addition as well as a conference room. Deb Clough asked if the Article fails would the monies then go to the General Fund, where it could be used to offset taxes in the future and then moved into a Capital Reserve next year. Steve said that would not be an option. Deb stated that in the past, with the Library project the Selectboard was adamant to have a plan developed prior to going forward and why the Selectmen were not following their own recommendations. Deb Clough asked to have her motion withdrawn. Bonnie stated that there had been no formal motion, therefore no need to withdraw it.

15) To see if the Town will vote to (a) change the purpose and name of the existing Recreation Field Shelter Capital Reserve Fund (created in 1988) to become the Municipal Complex Capital Reserve Fund for the new purpose of making repairs or improvements to the municipal complex of buildings and (b) to name the Selectmen as agents of the Town to carry out the new purpose of this fund. This article requires a 2/3 vote for approval. ***The Selectmen recommend this article/the Budget Committee recommends this article.*** Steve noted that this Capital Reserve had been established in 1988 and its purpose was to build a new shelter on the Recreation Field and due to the difficulty on building anything on the Field (wetlands) it would probably not be a possibility. Deb Clough noted that there has been construction on the Field in the past without problems. Angus Gorman asked what the balance was in the Fund. Pam Curran stated that there was approximately \$42,000. Deb Clough stated that a number of years back the Friends of the Grafton Community Building had donated a substantial amount of money into the Fund and stated that it would be beneficial to know if those people who had taken part in the fund raising would agree to such and she noted her objection if the funds were not going to "recreational" activities. Bonnie Haubrich stated that she had been part of the original Friends of Grafton Community Building and their intent had always addressed a building to be built behind the Town Office/Police Station.

Jennie Joyce made a motion to limit reconsideration of Articles #2, #3 and #15. Seconded by Rosalie Babiarcz. Motion passed.

4) To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of sixty-four thousand dollars (\$64,000) for the purchase of a 2014 International 5900i SBA 6x4 Garbage and Recycling Roll-off Truck and to fund this appropriation by authorizing the withdrawal of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) plus interest from the already established Roll-off Truck Capital Reserve Fund and fifty-four thousand dollars (\$54,000) from the already established Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund. The purchase price is \$84,900, and the remaining amount of twenty thousand nine hundred dollars (\$20,900) will be paid from the Recycle Center Revolving Fund. The roll-off truck is used by the Highway Department to transport trash, construction/demolition debris, and recyclables for the Grafton Recycling Center to

various locations throughout the Upper Valley. This article, if passed, will have no impact on taxation. ***The Selectmen recommend this article/the Budget Committee recommends this article.*** Ed Grinley noted that the current cost for hauling fees is approximately \$4,000 per year and prior to purchasing the original roll-off truck the Town paid approximately \$21,000 per year. He noted that the truck, which was being discussed is a good investment with low mileage and that the current one is old, but could be used as a back-up. Pam Curran asked the legality of comingling Highway funds with Recycling funds. Ed Grinley responded that the Article had been sent to the DRA for review and they agreed it was legal. Angus Gorman asked if the present one could be sold. Steve noted that it because of its age, it would be better to keep as a back-up.

5) To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) for the purpose of paving roads. ***The Selectmen recommend this article/the Budget Committee recommends this article.*** It was noted that these funds, which are requested each year would pave existing paved roads in need of repair.

Motion to Limit Reconsideration by Jennie Joyce for Articles #4 and #5 and seconded by Rich Blair. Motion passed.

6) 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/the Budget Committee recommends this article.*** Motion to discuss by Steve Darrow and seconded by Ed Grinley. No discussion.

7) 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/the Budget Committee recommends this article.*** **Motion to discuss by Cindy Kudlik and seconded by Steve.** Jennie noted that there is approximately \$50,000 in this Capital Reserve and that she recommended putting these funds into for future use.

8) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the previously established Bridge Capital Reserve Fund. ***The Selectmen recommend this article/the Budget Committee recommends this article.*** **Motion to discuss by Steve and seconded by Ed Grinley.** No discussion.

Motion to Limit Reconsideration for Articles #6, #7 and #8 by Jennie Joyce. Seconded by Dorothy Campbell. Motion passed.

9) To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the previously established Fire Department Apparatus Capital Reserve Fund. ***The Selectmen recommend this article/ the Budget Committee recommends this article.*** **Motion to discuss by Cindy Kudlik. Seconded by Steve Darrow.** Cindy asked what the balance is in the Fund. Pam Curran stated that there is \$131,355.

10) 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/the Budget Committee recommends this article.*** **Motion to discuss by Steve Darrow, seconded by Cindy Kudlik.** No discussion.

11) To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) to be placed in the previously established Town Hall Repairs Capital Reserve Fund. ***The Selectmen recommend this article / the Budget Committee recommends this article.*** **Motion to discuss by Jennie Joyce and seconded by Sandra Griffin.** Leon Dugan, Selectman noted that there was sill work and drainage work that needs to be addressed. He gave thanks to the volunteers, headed by Sandy Griffin for the excellent job painting and repairing the interior of the Town Hall this past year and encouraged people to go look at it, if they haven't.

12)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/the Budget Committee recommends this article.*** **Motion to discuss by Bonnie Haubrich and seconded by Jennie Joyce.** Bonnie explained that since 2010, when she became Town Clerk, with the help of 2 grants she wrote and the support of the voters the project has been going on nicely but due to the expense of each book (approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000) it was moving slowly. She encouraged support for this project as it was Grafton's history and important to preserve.

Motion to Limit Reconsideration of Articles #9, #10, #11 and #12 by Jennie Joyce. Seconded by Rich Blair.

13)To see if the Town will vote to increase the annual stipends paid to each of the selectmen from \$2,000 to \$3,500. ***Budget Committee recommends this article.*** **Motion to discuss by Cindy Kudlik and seconded by Sandy Griffin.** Jennie Joyce stated that the Selectmen have not received an increase since 1989 and said it is up to the voters if this Article passes or not. She further stated that this is not a "job", and it is stipend to help cover expenses such as mileage to attend meetings. Bonnie Haubrich stated that she certainly was in favor of this position receiving an increase, but asked why the Selectmen had used the language, not to include the need to appropriate the funds, and asked if that meant that they could cover the cost of these increased through the operating budget. She noted that it would be much more transparent to have included the proper language to achieve this request.

14)To see if the Town will vote to approve that, beginning in 2019, all funds received from the sale of cemetery lots are deposited with the trustees of the trust funds in the Pine Grove Burial Trust for the maintenance of cemeteries under RSA 31:19-a. Currently, when a cemetery plot is purchased, the total price is \$75 with \$50 of that amount deposited in the Trust. If this article is approved, the entire amount of \$75 would be deposited in the Trust. ***The Selectmen recommend this article/the Budget Committee recommends this article.*** Motion to discuss by Jennie Joyce, seconded by Ed Grinley. Bruce Frost asked if \$50.00 goes to the Trust where does the \$25.00 go. Steve Darrow responded that the \$25.00 goes to the General Fund.

Motion to Limit Reconsideration Articles #13 and #14 by Ed Grinley and seconded by Dorothy Campbell. Motion passed.

Moderator Kudlik announced Candidates' Night was scheduled for Friday, March 1, 2019 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall and reminded all to vote on Tuesday, March 12th at the Fire and Ambulance Station from 8:00am to 7:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58am.

Respectfully submitted:

Bonnie J. Haubrich
Town Clerk