

Budget Committee Town of Grafton, New Hampshire

Minutes of January 13, 2017 Public Hearing on the 2017 Proposed Budget

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

Others present: Adam Franz, Steve Darrow, Debra Clough, and Travis Anderson.

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

Minutes: The December 15, 2016 minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

Misc:

- It was noted that it was unclear if the Select Board or the voters were the agents to expend from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve.
- The default budget is \$1,036,009.00.
- The Deliberative Session is scheduled for February 11, 2017 at 9 AM at the Millbrook Fellowship Church

Warrant articles: The Budget Committee reviewed the warrant articles from the Selectmen 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

Budget Committee voted unanimously to recommend this article.

- 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

Budget Committee voted unanimously to recommend this article.

- 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

Budget Committee voted unanimously to recommend this article.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the purpose of placing ledge pack on town dirt roads.
The Selectmen recommend this article

Budget Committee voted unanimously to recommend this article.

- 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

Budget Committee voted unanimously to recommend this article.

- To see if the Town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund for a roll-off truck for the Recycle Center and raise and appropriate ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be placed in that fund.
The Selectmen recommend this article

Budget Committee voted unanimously to recommend this article.

- 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 voted unanimously to recommend this article.

- 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

Budget Committee voted unanimously to recommend this article.

- 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

Budget Committee voted unanimously to recommend this article.

- To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate two thousand one hundred eighty-four dollars (\$2,184) to increase the Road Agent's annual salary by 5%. (Majority vote required)
The Selectmen recommend this article

Budget Committee voted unanimously to recommend this article.

- Are you in favor of changing the term of the elected town treasurer from one year to 3 years, beginning with the term of the town treasurer to be elected at next year's regular town meeting? (Majority vote required)

FYI only, the Budget Committee only makes recommendations on money warrant articles.

- To raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,735 to be added to the 2017 budget for the Grafton Public Library, thus raising the library budget from the lowest position to an average one in comparison with NH towns of similar population and income. This will allow us to adequately fund new expense increases, such as the rising costs of internet service, new books/media and audiobooks/e-book memberships, as well as the renewal of our bar-code software licensing, ensuring adequate and up to date compensation for employees, etc., much of which includes expenses which have been either beyond our control or previously approved by the Selectmen. Additionally this will ensure full compliance with various state and federal regulations (i.e. RSA 202-A:1, RSA 202-A:4, RSA 279:21, LAB 803.5 and the United States Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938). (By Petition)

The Selectmen do not recommend this article

Budget Committee voted unanimously to not recommend this article.

- To see if the Town will vote to direct the Selectboard to establish a “Town Administrator Study Committee” for the purpose of exploring the pro’s and con’s of the Town of Grafton hiring a part-time Town Administrator. The “Town Administrator Study Committee” shall consist of no less than 6 positions, representing a broad overview of Grafton’s population derived from a simple division of the Town’s tax maps. The Committee shall present its findings at a public hearing before this year’s end, and if deemed appropriate, place an article on the 2018 Town Warrant that would appropriate funding for the purposes of hiring a part-time Town Administrator. (By Petition)

FYI only, the Budget Committee only makes recommendations on money warrant articles.

Public hearing opened at 7 PM

Library Trustee Adam Franz said the Library Trustees would like to increase the library portion of the budget from \$1000 to \$2000. Ed noted that the library did not spend any of their appropriated funds in 2016. He said the library portion should be spent prior to the town’s portion just as the cemetery department does. Adam requested the RSA that specifies that spending protocol.

Library Director Deb Clough expressed her disappointment in what she saw as nonsupport from the Budget Committee and Select Board for the library budget. Jennie noted the budget they approved was higher than a neighboring town that had a similar population and library size. Ed stated that no other department has ever come before the Committee requesting they almost double the size of their budget in one year. Adam agreed with Deb saying the library was significantly underfunded.

Steve Darrow stated that he appreciated the work the Budget Committee did on the 2017 budget and commended them for “making tough decisions that can’t please everyone”.

There being no further public comment, the Chair closed the public hearing.

After discussion, Jennie motioned to amend the Library budget to \$14,114.00 with the apportionment being \$12,114.00 from the town and \$2,000.00 from library funds. Catherine seconded. Ed, Catherine, and Jennie voted in favor. Pam abstained. Motion passed 3-0-1.

2017 BUDGET COMMITTEE APPROVALS AFTER AMENDMENT

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>REQUEST</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>
Selectmen	\$301,910.00	\$301,910.00
Welfare	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Planning Board	\$375.00	\$375.00
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$2,086.55	\$2,087.00
Tax Collector	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
Town Clerk	\$35,138.00	\$35,138.00
Parks and Recreation	\$3,450.00	\$3,450.00
Emergency Management	\$200.00	\$200.00
Library	\$24,849.00	\$14,114.00
Highway Department	\$387,511.16	\$383,511.00
Police Department	\$138,970.00	\$139,573.00
Fire Department	\$22,400.00	\$22,000.00
Ambulance Department	\$48,850.00	\$23,000.00*
Cemetery Department	\$7,200.00	\$7,700.00
Recycling Center	\$79,000.00	\$81,000.00
Fire Warden	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
TOTAL	\$1,090,939.71	\$1,053,058.00

*Ambulance: Figure does not include funds from Revolving Account. See below for actual approval.

GROSS BUDGETING APPORTIONMENTS

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>DEPT</u>
Library	\$14,114.00	\$12,114.00	\$2,000.00
Ambulance	\$39,000.00	\$23,000.00	\$16,000.00
Cemetery	\$7,700.00	\$6,650.00	\$1,050.00

Meeting adjourned 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Pierson