

*Town of Grafton, New Hampshire  
Budget Committee  
Minutes of August 31, 2017  
(approved)*

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

*Others present:* Maureen O'Reilly

*Meeting opened at 6:30 PM.*

The Committee reviewed the 2017 budget expenditure summary through August 31.

*Police:* Ed stated that there is presently not a second full-time police officer. Police Chief Russ Poitras is looking to fulfill that position.

*Ambulance:* Ed stated that the town has signed a contract for ambulance coverage with Canaan FAST Squad at an annual cost of \$23,000. Coverage is from 9 AM to 9 PM, seven days a week. Grafton Ambulance covers the town on the off hours (with the pre-established back-up from Canaan if no EMT response in town is available). Because the town is paying for the daytime contract plus keeping the Grafton Ambulance in service, the 2018 budget is expected to increase.

*Highway & Recycling Center:* Major road projects and road maintenance were discussed. The department has a per-diem employee that has not recently been utilized. The Committee discussed the Recycling Center Manager salary of \$6000 in regards to his hours worked. Pam felt that since the manager is a Select Board-appointed position, if people are unhappy with it they should bring it before the Select Board. The procedure of highway personnel hauling trash for the Recycling Center was discussed; mainly that Recycling Center work is being done on the highway wage scales. Jennie thought that perhaps the workers should keep track of the time spent with the separate departments and be paid accordingly. Catherine agreed and said they need to differentiate between highway and recycling center work. Jennie said this was an issue that the Select Board needs to resolve.

Jennie stated that the town has received approximately \$76,000 in unanticipated highway revenue from the NH DOT resulting from the SB 38 House Bill. The Select Board has had a public hearing to accept these funds. This money is designated by the State to be used for highway projects not included in the regular operating budget. Catherine felt that if the money was used for paving they would not need to have a paving warrant article for 2018. This prompted a general discussion on the overall paving strategy for the town.

Jennie stated that at this time, one Recycling Center employee arrives at the station a half hour early, and one leaves a half hour after closure. She sees this as a safety issue for the person who

remains after the closure. If there was an incident or injury that rendered the person unable to call for help, no one would be aware of this for quite some time.

*Library:* The library budget and management were discussed. Ed stated that the library staff was given raises [beyond what the Select Board recommended town-wide for employees in 2017] even though a petitioned article submitted by the Library Trustees that included these substantial pay increases failed on the 2017 warrant. The Committee agreed that the pay raises over what was established in the municipal budget should come out of the library's independent funds. Jennie noted that the increase in wages will affect the town's FICA payments and other wage-related expenses. Internal issues within the library were also discussed including off-hours Wi-Fi internet usage and off-site equipment usage.

Other:

- Jennie noted that the town has started taxing the Grafton Center Church property because tax-exempt documentation was not received by the town.
- Ed stated that all department heads have been asked to submit their 2018 budget requests to the Select Board by September 11. He anticipates that the Select Board will review them at their September 12 meeting and then forward their recommendations to the Budget Committee. Upon receipt of the budgets and Select Board recommendations, Ed will schedule a meeting to begin deliberations.

*Meeting adjourned 7:30 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandi Pierson