

*Town of Grafton, New Hampshire  
Budget Committee  
Minutes of December 20, 2017  
(approved)*

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

*Others present:* John Babiarz

*Meeting opened at 6:30 PM.*

*Minutes:* The minutes of November 29, 2017 were unanimously approved as submitted.

*Fire Department:* The Committee met with Fire Chief John Babiarz to revisit the Fire Department budget request of \$23,652. On November 29, 2017 the Committee had voted to level fund the budget at \$22,000.

Ed asked if the fire department had been requesting any funding from the Ladies Auxiliary. John said they bought over \$14,000 worth of tools in March with Auxiliary money. John summarized the anticipated 2018 expenses including the replacement of fire fighter air packs purchase in 1988 at \$6,900 each. He said he needs to replace a minimum of four; ideally they should replace eight. John also said he would like to purchase pre-canned non-ethanol gas for some of the machinery.

A bulk of the discussion centered on training, and why so little was spent on it in 2017. John said that there are fourteen members on the roster and that four to eight regularly show up on calls. He says he informs them of training, both outside and in-house but that he can't compel them to attend. Safety issues and protocols observed on recent calls were discussed.

After discussion, Catherine voted to keep the budget at \$22,000 as voted on previously. Ed seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor. Ed noted that absent Budget Committee member Pam Curran wrote a letter recommending the Committee approve the budget at \$23,652.

*Cemetery:* Ed noted that the cemetery budget had been discussed but not formally voted on. Catherine motioned to approve the cemetery budget at \$8000. Ed seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

*Other:*

- Catherine recommended decreasing the welfare budget from \$20,000 to \$15,000. She said that statutorily they had to expend what was required anyway but that lowering the appropriation itself could lower the tax rate. Ed and Jennie did not agree to decrease the welfare budget.
- The Committee affirmed that the secretary was entitled to the 5% pay increase for 2017, a raise of \$0.60 an hour.

*Meeting adjourned 8:45 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandi Pierson