

*Town of Grafton, New Hampshire
Budget Committee
Minutes of November 29, 2017
(not yet approved)*

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

Others present: n/a

Meeting opened at 6:30 PM.

Minutes: The minutes of November 1, 2017 were unanimously approved as submitted.

Highway Department: Ed stated that Road Agent Bob Bassett declined to attend tonight's meeting to discuss a number of questions that Pam posed at the last meeting regarding the highway budget.

Fire Warden: After discussion, Catherine motioned to accept the Fire Warden budget request of \$1000. Pam seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Emergency Management: After discussion, Catherine motioned to accept the Emergency Management budget request of \$100. Pam seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Planning Board: After discussion, Pam motioned to accept the Planning Board budget request of \$375. It was noted they only spent \$19.66 in 2017. Jennie seconded. Pam, Ed, and Jennie voted in favor of the budget. Catherine voted in opposition. Motion passed 3/1/0 in favor.

Parks and Recreation: The Committee reviewed the Parks and Recreation budget request of \$3,450, which is level funded from 2017. Ed stated that the department did not purchase picnic tables this year because of the necessity of new porta-toilets. He clarified that the line item "insurance projects" is basically safety measures mandated by the town's insurance company. After discussion, Ed motioned to accept the Parks and Recreation budget request of \$3,450. Pam seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Fire Department: The Committee reviewed the Fire Department budget request of \$23,652. After comparing the repairs, training, and maintenance line items to the total number of calls, Ed motioned to level fund the 2018 budget at \$22,000. Catherine seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Library: The Committee revisited the Library budget request of \$20,818, an increase of \$6,704 over the 2017 appropriation of \$14,114. The gross budgeting basis for 2018 was requested as \$18,818 from the town and \$2000 from library funds. Jennie stated that the Select Board had approved the budget at \$14,819 as an across-the-board 5% increase. Pam reiterated the point that

last year the petitioned warrant article to substantially increase the library budget, which included considerable wage increases, was voted down by the townspeople yet the Library Trustees went ahead with the wage increases. The voters had approved the Committee's budget which included an across-the-board wage increase of 5% for nonelected municipal employees. Ed questioned if it was necessary to have the library porta-toilet serviced as often as it is. After discussion, which included reviewing the Library Department's financial reports, Ed motioned to level fund the library budget at \$14,114 with \$12,114 coming from the town and \$2000 coming from library funds. Jennie seconded. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Select Board: The Committee reviewed the Select Board budget request of \$303,353, a \$1,443 increase over the 2017 appropriation. Jennie summarized the present legal issues of the town and said that at this time they are minimal. After discussion, Ed motioned to approve the Select Board budget at \$303,353. Pam seconded. Motioned passed unanimously in favor.

Welfare: Jennie stated that she felt level funding the Welfare budget at \$20,000 would be sufficient. After discussion, Ed motioned to set the Welfare budget at \$20,000. Motion passed unanimously in favor.

Other:

- Ed asked Sandi to notify each department head by mail of the Committee's decision on their budget requests. If they would like to discuss their budgets further, they may contact the Administrative Assistant and schedule an appointment to meet with the Committee on December 13.
- The deadline for warrant articles is January 12.
- The Budget Committee public hearing is scheduled for February 10. The Committee will meet at 6 PM to review warrant articles and conduct any other business that may come before them. The public hearing will commence at 7 PM.

Meeting adjourned 8:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandi Pierson