

*Town of Grafton, New Hampshire  
Budget Committee  
Minutes of October 5, 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 and Cindy Kudlik

*Meeting opened at 7:00 PM.*

*Minutes:* The minutes of August 31, 2017 were unanimously approved as corrected (date change).

*Highway/Recycling Center:* Pam asked if the Select Board had addressed the issue of the Recycling Center work being done on Highway Department time. Jennie stated that it is still an issue and that Bob Bassett stated that it was difficult to separate the budgets of the two departments. Jennie feels the resolve is to punch in and out with the time cards of both departments. Catherine suggested a "Public Works" department that would encompass a number of town departments. Jennie and Ed were opposed to the idea, stating that it is too much for one person to be in charge of.

Ed noted that the Highway Block Grant this year is anticipated at \$123,000.

The Committee reviewed the two warrant articles recommended by Recycling Center Manager and Road Agent Bob Bassett:

- Recycling Center: \$20,000 for the Roll-off Truck Capital Reserve Fund
- Highway: \$35,000 for the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund
  - \$40,000 for paving
  - \$25,000 for ledgepack

*Cemeteries:* Cemetery Trustee Cindy Kudlik met with the Committee to discuss the 2018 Cemetery Budget request of \$8000.00, a \$300 increase over the 2017 appropriation. The gross basis budget would be \$6,700.00 from the town and \$1,300.00 from the trust funds. She said they approximated the trust fund amount on what has been available the last few years. Cindy said that the supplies line item has increased by \$100.00 due to equipment that needs to be replaced. They would like to increase the wages by \$150.00 in order to address necessary end-of-year needs. Cindy said that she would like to see the department begin resetting monuments, a task that has not been done in the past. Catherine, speaking as a member of the Trustee of the Trust Funds, explained the process of using interest from Cemetery Common Trusts Funds 1 & 2 to assist with the cost of fixing monuments. Cindy said she uncertain who could take on the task of resetting and fixing monuments. Jennie suggested checking with the area funeral directors for recommendations. No action was taken on the budget.

*Tax Collector:* The Board reviewed the 2018 budget request for the Tax Collector's office of \$18,400.00 submitted by Bonnie Haubrich, an increase of \$400.00 over the 2017 appropriation. The software line item increased by \$100.00 and Supplies by \$300.00. Ed stated that he believed the increase in supplies is due to the necessity of a computer component that allows for comprehensive internet security. Ed questioned why the present 2017 expenditure for lien processing fees is zero dollars given it is a \$4,500.00 line item. The Committee tabled the budget until clarification.

*Town Clerk:* The Committee reviewed the 2018 budget request for the Town Clerk's office of \$37,250.00 submitted by Bonnie Haubrich, an increase of \$2,112.00 over the 2017 appropriation. The elections line item of \$3000 in 2017 is doubled due to their being three elections slated for 2018. License fees to the town clerk increased by \$500.00. Supplies decreased by \$2,088.00. Phone/fax/internet increased by \$400.00. Licensed software increased by \$300.00 for "additional computer tech support". Ed said he did not know if the latter meant the cost has increased or additional work is needed. The Committee discussed the option of a \$5.00 fee for each registration targeted toward "highway" though it's procedure and advantages were unclear. The Committee tabled the budget. It was noted that Bonnie is requesting a warrant article for \$3000.00 for records restoration.

*Supervisors of the Checklist:* the Committee reviewed the 2018 budget request for the Supervisors of the Checklist of \$3,159.14, an increase of \$ 1,072.14 over the 2017 appropriation. Ed felt that listing the deliberation session as twelve hours seemed a bit long. Pam said that preparation for it might be a factor. There being no further questions or comments, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Supervisors' budget at \$3,159.14.

*Other:*

- Ed stated that per the directive of Hanover Dispatch, the Police Department had to get a particular component for radio communication security. This was purchased with the 2017 budget and Police Chief Russ Poitras is working on an agreement with Hanover that extends it over two years.
- Maureen asked what the town and revolving fund ratio was for the Ambulance Budget request. The total request for 2018 is \$44,000.00 with a ratio of \$25,000.00 from the town and \$19,000.00 from the Revolving Account (insurance revenue).
- Cindy Kudlik, speaking as a member of the Ladies Auxiliary, stated that the Ambulance Department has not requested any support for two years. Regarding the Grafton EMT's now getting stipends for responding to calls, she said that if that is considered "getting paid", the Auxiliary may not be able to offer support because that would mean they may no longer be considered "nonprofit."

*Meeting adjourned 8:00 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandi Pierson