

APPROVED

Town of Grantham Board of Selectmen Budget Work Meeting Minutes November 30, 2022

The work meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 10:05 AM on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, by Chairman Warren Kimball. The Board met in the Grantham Town Building, Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room, 300 Route 10 South, Grantham, NH.

Present: Chairman Warren Kimball; Selectman Constance Jones; Selectman Peter Garland; Town Administrator Melissa White; Transfer Station Supervisor Chris Scott; Road Agent Jeff Hastings, Jeannie Sperry; Charles Cooper; Michele Dominy; Joan Rachlin; Barbara Jones, Library Director Dawn Huston, and Library Trustee Meg Dearden.

Transfer Station: Supervisor Chris Scott reviewed his proposed budget with the Selectmen. He stated the biggest increase was for diesel fuel. Administrator White informed the training line has increased to allow for CDL training which costs around \$5,000. Scott informed the Rolloff truck is 16 years old with 140,000 miles and said the CIP Committee is going to recommend its replacement. Scott said Casella replaces theirs after seven years. White asked if he had updated quotes. Scott said a quote from three years ago was \$171,000. Selectman Jones said the Rolloff truck is essential to keep the facility open. Selectman Garland agreed.

Scott said that some of his containers need to be replaced, specifically, two 45-yard trash for approximately \$12,000 each and 2 C&D containers for approximately \$6,200 each. The Board agreed to add this to the 2023 budget.

Resident Jeannie Sperry stated that a group of residents are concerned and confused about the discontinuance of recycling mixed paper. Selectman Jones clarified that recycling of mixed paper was not discontinued; it was temporarily halted because there is no market to take it to; therefore, the Town's vendor, Casella, will not accept it right now. She explained the Town is a member of the Northeast Resource Recovery Association (NRRRA), along with 218 other towns, and they work to find recycling vendors on our behalf. Resident Charlie Cooper provided the Board with a printout from the Town of Wilmot's website that had a graph and other recycling data. Mr. Cooper requested the Town revisit the options with NRRRA along with the extra costs. Supervisor Scott said the only other option is Keene, and they won't take it due to staffing. In addition, they have other sorting requirements. Mr. Cooper said the "group" is willing to help explore the costs to recycle paper beyond New Hampshire.

Resident Barbara Jones thanked Supervisor Scott and all the workers at the Transfer Station. Administrator White asked them to help increase our recycling rate since it's approximately 25%. She also stated the need for part-time workers at the Transfer Station.

Road Agent Jeff Hastings reviewed the draft budget for the highway department. He explained that fuel, salt, sand, and tires are the areas of the budget that have increased in costs. Administrator White stated that the training budget increased to cover the cost of CDL certification. Road Agent Hastings said he met with the CIP Committee (CIPC) and is now requesting his vehicles and equipment be kept on a seven-year replacement plan due to everything being electrical and how the salt impacts the life of the equipment. Hastings explained that recently the lights went out in

APPROVED

the backhoe, and it turned out that everything was tied to the whole computer and cost \$5,000 to repair. Hastings said the CIPC agreed with his replacement plan.

Library Director Dawn Huston and Library Trustee Meg Dearden reviewed the library budget. Director Huston said the Trustees would like to add \$6,000 to the “technology” ETF and \$20,000 to the “building repair” CRF.

Administrator White reviewed the remaining portions of the draft budget (except for the Fire Department, which will be held on December 14, 2022, at 4 PM) with the Selectmen. The Board discussed salary increases and agreed the Town needs to stay competitive. The Board directed White to calculate an 8% COLA. White discussed the sign-on bonus for Police Department and proposed moving that money from their operating budget to the benefits budget. White explained that it is a benefit, not an operating expense of the department. The Board agreed and said more money needs to be added for other departments as well. White informed the report from MRI was recently received. After reviewing it, the Board directed White to advertise for a full-time position in the Selectmen’s Office.

White discussed other options for the Town Meeting Warrant, specifically, the increase to the credit amount for disabled Veterans. White explained the Town is at the minimum the State allows and said we could go up to \$4,000 and said if we went to the maximum allowed the tax impact would be approximately \$33,000 more, based on current numbers. The Board agreed to add an article to the Warrant to increase the disabled Veteran tax credit to \$4,000. White also informed that the Legislature increased the maximum amount for the Regular and All Veterans Tax Credit to \$750 and asked if they wanted to add it to the Warrant. White explained the tax impact (for the Regular and All Veterans Tax Credit) would be approximately \$30,000, based on current numbers. White said, based on the 2022 MS-1, it takes approximately \$76,000 to affect the tax rate by .10 cents. The Board agreed to add an article to the Warrant to increase the Regular and All Veterans Tax Credit to \$750.

Funding of the town’s capital and expendable trust funds was discussed and decided as follows: Library Technology & Office Equipment ETF - \$6,000, Mowers CRF - \$10,000, Highway Equipment CRF - \$100,000, Transfer Station CRF - \$50,000, Library Building Repair CRF - \$20,000, Town Building Repair CRF - \$5,000, Fire Apparatus CRF - \$75,000, Fire-EMS Equipment/Maintenance CRF - \$10,000, Police Vehicle CRF - \$20,000, Road Improvement ETF - \$5,000, Government Building Expansion & Construction ETF - \$50,000, Town Office Equipment CRF - \$2,000, Municipality Revaluation CRF - \$10,000, Town Clerk Office Equipment CRF - \$1,000.

There being no further business, Selectman Jones moved to adjourn, seconded by Chairman Kimball; by majority vote, the Board adjourned at 3:30 PM.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on **Wednesday, December 14, 2022, at 5:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa White
Town Administrator