

Town of Nottingham, NH
Deliberative Session Minutes - Saturday, February 4, 2023

The meeting of Third Annual Town Deliberative Session was called to order at 9:02 am by Moderator Dawn Fernald.

The Moderator then introduced herself and those at the front table as follows: Charlotte Fyfe - Assistant Moderator; Ballot Clerks - Roger and Kathy Freidan, Michael and Teresa Bascom, Supervisors of the Checklist - Dee Ann Decker, Ruth Ann Fuller, and Sandi Dow; Lori Anderson - Town Clerk, Alana Kenney - Deputy Town Clerk; Interim Town Administrator - John Scruton; Board of Selectman, Donna Danis - Chair, Tony Dumas, Ben Bartlett, Tiler Eaton, and John Morin; Budget Committee members, Michelle King - Chair, Mike Kelley, Tom Butkiewicz, Owen Friend-Gray, John Decker - Vice Chair. Non-members allowed to speak were Attorneys Michael Courtney and Madeline Osbon, Librarian - Elizabeth Bolton; Road Agent - Shawn McLean; Parks and Rec Director - Kortney Duball; as well as Police Chief Fawn Woodman, and Officer McNeil, and Officer Alvarez.

Moderator Fernald asked all to rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Moderator read the rules and procedures of the Deliberative Session and then noted Nottingham is an SB2 Town and the first session is being held today. The 2nd session will be held on March 14, 2023 and will be using ballot votes. Today we would be discussing the Warrant Articles and vote that they be moved to the ballot.

The Moderator read as follows

You are hereby notified to meet at the Nottingham School, located at 245 Stage Road in Nottingham, at 9:00a.m. on February 4, 2023. This session shall consist of explanation, discussion, and deliberation of the Warrant Articles numbers six through twenty. These warrant Articles may be amended subject to the following limitations: (a) Warrant Articles whose wording is prescribed by law may not be amended; and (b) Warrant Articles that are amended shall be placed on the official ballot for final vote on the main motion as amended. If the meeting needs to be postponed, the alternate date is at the same location at 5 PM on February 6, 2023.

Second Session: You are hereby notified to meet at the Nottingham School, located at 245 Stage Road in Nottingham, on March 14, 2023, to vote on all warrant articles. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Moderator then noted that Articles 1 through 5 cannot be amended today. Article 1 will be the election of Officers and Articles 2 through 5 pertain to Zoning and no discussion nor debate will be held on them.

Article #1: Election of Officers

Board of Selectmen (2 for 3 years)
Budget Committee (3 for 3 years)
Budget Committee (1 for 1years)
Cemetery Trustee (1 for 3 years)
Library Trustee (2 for 3 years)
Planning Board (2 for 3 years)
Tax Collector (1 for 3 years)
Treasurer (1 for 3 years)
Trustee of the Trust Funds (1 for 3 years)
Zoning Board (2 for 3 years)

Article# 2 Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment 1as proposed by the Planning

Board for the town's Zoning Ordinance as follows:
Adopt a new definition for impervious surface.

Approved By the Nottingham Planning Board By A Vote Of (6-0-1)

Article #3: Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment 2 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's Zoning Ordinance as follows:
Adopt a new vegetative buffer for wetlands. Re-format Article III; Section B.3 as "Vegetative Buffers."

Approved By the Nottingham Planning Board By a Vote Of {6-0-1}

Article #4 Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment 3 as proposed by the Planning Board for the Town's Zoning Ordinance as follows: Adopt setbacks for new roadways.
Residential/ Agricultural -The right of way of all new roads or streets within a subdivision shall maintain a twenty-five foot (25') no-disturb, natural vegetative buffer from any property line shared with a lot abutting the subdivision.
Commercial/Industrial- The right of way of all new roads or streets within a subdivision shall maintain a fifty foot (50') no-disturb, natural vegetative buffer from any property line shared with a lot abutting the subdivision.

Approved By the Nottingham Planning Board By A Vote Of {5-1-0}

Article #5: Are you in favor of adoption of Amendment 4 as proposed by the Planning Board for the town's Zoning Ordinance as follows:
Adopt amendments to the Aquifer Protection District that includes adding Design I Performance section and Maintenance I Inspection section; changing exemptions to Conditional Use Permit; adding the Town Administrator and Fire Chief as the Designated Agents: and in order to align with state regulations.

Approved By the Nottingham Planning Board By A Vote Of (6-0-0)

Article #6: Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling\$ 4,842,866 (Four million, eight hundred forty-two thousand eight hundred sixty-six dollars). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,541,263 (Four million five hundred forty-one thousand, two hundred and sixty-three dollars) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. The estimated tax impact is \$3.08 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Board of Selectmen recommended this article (5-0)

The Budget Committee recommended this article. (7-0-2)

Tony Dumas motioned to move Article 6 as written to the ballot. John Morin seconded the motion.

John Scruton, Interim Town Administrator, explained that the Board of Selectmen spoke with all Department Heads and staff to receive their input. Michelle King, Budget Committee Chair, then gave an overview of the Budget.

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Lori Anderson, Town Clerk, motioned that Line #26 of the budget be increased by \$1,000.00 to allow for an increase in the hourly wage that was paid to the Deputy Town Clerk. Dee Decker seconded the motion. Tom Butkiewicz noted that the Town Clerk also received fees in addition to the hourly wage. Ms. Anderson then explained how and why the fees were paid as she is a Municipal Agent of the State of the New Hampshire and that the fees are allocated by the State. Michelle King then asked the Town Clerk for the last time her wage was raised, and the Clerk answered that they had been last raised in 2020.

The Moderator then asked for a vote by a hand card vote, and the amendment passed and was moved to the ballot.

Ed Viel then motioned to amend Article 6 to increase line 113 Planning Board Miscellaneous from \$1 to \$6,500.

The request for the Planning Board for Nottingham to become a member of the Strafford Regional Planning Commission (SRPC). He spoke that membership has multiple positive features including a vote on issues brought before the SRPC. Bonnie Winona MacKinnon seconded the motion. Tom Butkiewicz stated that the SRPC was bureaucracy, and that membership was unnecessary.

Dee Decker noted a point of order that Budget Committee Board members should speak at the public microphone as residents and not Board members.

Gary Anderson stated that as a Planning Board Member, that while attending meetings of the SRPC, he was not allowed to vote and that could be the deciding vote on a matter.

Matt Shirland asked if the 4% tax cap was the bottom line and if the entire budget would need to be adjusted if additions are made. A general discussion followed. The Moderator then asked questions to the Budget Committee on the cap and how it affected the bottom line. John Decker stated that any increases made would increase the budget but that decreases could be made as well, and all lines could be voted on a la carte.

Christine Dabrieo asked if the cap could be overridden. The Moderator asked the Budget Committee to explain, and it was answered that the cap was on the Budget Committee and not the actual budget.

Marguerite Tucker stated the SRPC provides mapping services which would lower the cost vs a la carte items that could be provided.

Ed Viel stated that the overall benefits were that we would no longer have to contract with a planner and pay a higher rate and that we do not currently have a contract planner on staff.

Gary Anderson stated that members were helped with the Master Plan.

Michael Kelly asked about costs of a la carte vs member. Ed Viel stated that line item 100 was for a contract Planner at an hourly rate and that things have fallen behind because of the caseload.

A handcard vote to amend the budget for the Planning Board was asked for in the amount of \$6,500. John Scruton noted that since there was a \$1 amount on line item #113, the vote should be on adding \$6,499, instead. Ed Viel then made a motion to amend Article 6 to increase line 113, Planning Board

Miscellaneous, from \$1 to \$6,500. This is the basis for the change in the operating budget being \$6,499 instead of \$6,500.

A handcard vote was taken and the motion carried.

Ed Viel asked if RSA 40:10 would be needed on each line amended for Article #6 or the entire article.

As Amended:

Article #6: Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$ 4,850,365 (Four million, eight hundred fifty thousand three hundred sixty-five dollars). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,541,263 (Four million five hundred forty-one thousand, two hundred and sixty-three dollars) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. The estimated tax impact is \$3.08 per \$1,000 of property valuation

The Moderator then moved Article #6, as amended, to the ballot. Tony Dumas moved to invoke RSA 40:10, Donna Danis seconded the motion, and by handcard vote, the motion carried.

The Moderator then read Article #7 as follows”

Article #7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$90,000 (Ninety thousand dollars) to be added to the previously established Town Building Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust fund. The sum is to come from unassigned fund balance. This expendable trust is used for maintenance and repair of heating, plumbing or other major systems in town buildings or facilities. The estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per \$1,000 of property valuation. Majority vote required.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (9-0).

Donna Danis explained the reason for funding this fund began in 2014 and that special repairs and replacements are needed to the Town facilities. There was no money added to the fund in 2022. She stated that the Board recommends adding to the fund and that \$67,000 had been used in the last few weeks for emergency repairs.

Tom Butkiewicz spoke in favor of Article 7.

The Moderator moved Article #7 to the ballot. Donna Danis motioned to invoke RSA 40:10, Pam Kelly seconded the motion and the motion carried by a handcard vote.

Moderator Fernald then read Article #8.

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Article #8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$90,000.00 (Ninety Thousand Dollars) to be used for engineering projects including culverts on Kelsey Road and Cooper Hill Road and the library parking lot. The sum is to come from unassigned fund balance. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (5-3-1).

Tiler Eaton motioned to move Article #8 to the ballot. Steve Soreff seconded the motion.

Tiler then explained that Kelsey and Cooper Hill roads have received Shovel Ready grants. Tom Butkiewicz stated that the library parking lot work was for culverts so that the parking lot could be expanded and that would double the cost.

The moderator asked Budget Committee Members to speak from the main table regarding Budget issues.

Jenn Phillips, a Library Trustee explained that stormwater runoff from the state road is causing issues and the cost to pave is only a guesstimate.

Michelle King stated that the library wants to repave, but engineering should be done first for future parking expansion and repaving.

No further discussion ensued, and Article 8 was moved to the ballot. Pam Kelly seconded the motion.

Tony Dumas invoked RSA 40:10, and Donna Danis seconded the motion. A handcard vote was taken and the motion passed.

Moderator Fernald then read Article #9 as follows:

Article 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the previously established Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of performing a statutory revaluation of property every five years. The sum is to come from unassigned fund balance. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (6-3).

Tony Dumas motioned to move the Article to the ballot, Donna Danis seconded the motion.

John Morin spoke about the article which would allow Avitar to complete an evaluation in 2025 that is estimated to be \$110,000, and that the money will be available when needed. Michelle King stated that the Budget Committee agreed.

The Moderator moved the Article to the Ballot. Donna Danis invoked RSA 30:10, Tony Dumas seconded the motion and it passed by handcard vote.

The Moderator then read Article #10 as follows:

Article #10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 (Forty Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of purchasing the necessary fuel, supplies, equipment and maintenance to run the ambulance and billing services for 2023; and to authorize the withdrawal of \$40,000.00 (Forty Thousand Dollars) from the Ambulance and Equipment Replacement Special Revenue Fund created for this purpose. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (9-0).

Ben Bartlett motioned to move the Article to the ballot. Tony Dumas seconded the motion.

Ben Bartlett then spoke that this article would be for ambulance services and that the money comes from user fees.

Pam Kelly asked if we needed a vote to move it to the ballot, and the Moderator answered 'no'.

Fire and Rescue Chief Vilchok spoke about the Article and that as of December 31, 2022, there was \$448,000 balance in the fund.

Michelle King stated the Budget Committee fully agreed.

The Moderator moved the Article to the Ballot. Tony Dumas invoked RSA 40:10, Donna Danis seconded the motion and the motion passed by handcard vote.

Moderator Fernald then read Article #11.

Article #11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$400,000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand Dollars) for highway reconstruction and maintenance work for topcoat to protect the base on Flutter Street and Oak Ridge Road, reconstruction and paving of Deerfield Road, or other roads in Nottingham if a priority arises. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the work is complete or not later than one year after the end of fiscal year 2023, whichever occurs earlier. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.48 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (9-0).

Tony Dumas motioned that the Article be moved to the ballot, Donna Danis seconded the motion.

Tony stated that a base coat was applied in 2022 to these roads and the final coat would be applied in 2023. He stated that Deerfield Road and major work to be started. In past years there has been \$300,000 requested for such work.

Michelle King stated that the figures were changed to meet the 4% tax cap.

Tom Butkiewicz stated that the Select Board made a move to add \$100,000 to this Article and not the Budget Committee. He did not believe it should have been a warrant article.

Moderator Fernald motioned that the Article be moved to the ballot.

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Tony Dumas motioned to invoke RSA 40:10. Donna Danis seconded the motion and the motion passed by handcard vote.

The Moderator then read Article #12.

Article #12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.12 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (8-1).

John Morin motioned to have Article #12 moved to the ballot. Ben Bartlett seconded the motion.

John Morin stated that the Highway truck fund was used to replace aging and rusting older vehicles. He said this was a value and financially responsible. No extra comments were made.

A vote by handcard was taken and the motion carried.

Donna Danis motioned to invoke RSA 40:10, and Tony Dumas seconded the motion. The motion carried by handcard vote.

The Moderator then read Article #13.

Article #13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Fire Vehicle I SCBA Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.12 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (9-0).

Tiler Eaton motioned to move Article #13 to the ballot. Ben Bartlett seconded the motion.

Tiler noted that \$100,000 was added to the fund to keep the fund balance for large purchases. He noted that there would be no spike in taxes by utilizing this method.

Chief Vilchok spoke to Article #13 and stated that as of 12/31/22, there was approximately \$309,000 in the Capital Reserve Fund.

Moderator moved the Article to the ballot.

Tony Dumas invoked RSA 40:10, Donna Danis seconded the motion and the motion carried by a handcard vote.

Moderator Fernald then read Article #14.

Article #14: To see if the Town will vote to establish a' Police Technology Equipment Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a for purchase and repair of technology equipment for the Police Department including but not limited to mobile data terminals, cameras, servers, radios, tasers, radar units, etc., and to raise and appropriate \$10,000 to put into the fund and further to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.01 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (9-0).

Tony Dumas motioned to move the Article to the ballot, and Tiler Eaton seconded the motion. Tony noted that this would be used for electronic equipment and gave the Police Department the flexibility to replace defective equipment when necessary.

Tom Butkiewicz spoke in support of this Article, as did Michelle King stating the Budget Committee also supported it.

The Moderator moved Article #14 to the ballot as written. Tony invoked RSA 40:10, and Donna Danis seconded the motion. The motion passed with a handcard vote.

The Moderator then read Article #15.

Article #15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of\$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Invasive Species Prevention and Eradication Removal Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.01 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (5-4).

Tiler Eaton motioned to move Article #15 to the ballot. Tony Dumas seconded.

Tiler then spoke about the issue of Milfoil that the Town has been putting money aside for the removal of invasive species.

Michelle King stated that the Budget Committee was torn, and that historically the committee has been split on this item.

Steve Soreff thanked the Town for the wisdom for watching over water bodies in Nottingham, especially Pawtuckaway Lake. He stated that the milfoil has spread, and we are at a tipping point.

Ed Viel stated that he supports this Article.

Dee Decker spoke in front of a map of Pawtuckaway Lake that highlighted the areas were milfoil has been found. She said that it spreads fastest in shallow areas and is now found in the Fundy area, which is a public area of the lake.

Michael Kelly stated that unassigned funds are a problem, and that Article #15 is requesting \$10,000, while there is a line item in the budget for an additional \$5,000. He stated that the State Park issues no oversight as to who launches there, and the State does not oversee it.

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Tony Dumas said that the Select Board has oversight of managing the money and it is used as needed to make sure it is appropriate spent.

Dee Decker noted that the State agrees that they need to step up and when the State is involved, they send divers to remove the milfoil. She also noted that grants are available and applied for by the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association (PLIA).

She asked the Town to work with the State regarding the aquatic invasive species fund.

Tom Butkiewicz asked from the front table for clarification on it being used for ponds and lake or is it also used for streams.

The Moderator moved Article #15 to the ballot.

Tony Dumas motioned to invoke RSA 40:10, and Donna Danis seconded the motion. The motion carried by handcard vote.

Moderator Fernald then read Article #16.

Article #16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,000.00 (Six Thousand Dollars) to be used for improvements to the library entrance including accessibility for ADA compliant door opening device. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.007 (less than 1 cent) per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (8-0-1).

Donna Danis motioned that it be moved to the ballot. Tony Dumas seconded the motion.

Donna spoke about the fact that the Library does not have ADA compliant access as it should for the front entrance.

Michelle King stated that most of the Budget Committee agreed with the Article.

No public comments were heard, and the Moderator moved it to the ballot.

Donna Danis motioned to invoke RSA 40:10, Tony Dumas seconded the motion, and the motion passed by handcard vote.

The Moderator then read Article #17.

Article 17: To see if the Town will approve the readoption of the Optional Veteran's Tax Credit (RSA 72:28, II). The readoption of the Optional Veteran's Tax Credit, if approved, would continue to offer a \$750 tax credit to all honorably discharged veterans that qualify under the current requirements and as of April 1, 2023, would expand the eligibility requirements to include those individuals that have not yet been discharged from active service. (Majority vote required)

Tony Dumas motioned to move Article #17 to the ballot, Tiler Eaton seconded the motion.

Tony spoke that this tax credit will be changed to expand it and that people that have not yet been discharged from active duty would be able to apply for the credit.

The Moderator moved the Article to the ballot.

Tony Dumas invoked RSA 40:10, Donna Danis seconded the motion, and the motion passed by a handcard vote.

The Moderator then read Article #18 which was a petition warrant article.

Article 18 "Shall the Town of Nottingham raise and appropriate \$40,000 for the calendar year of 2023 in order to contract with a property management firm to make repairs to facilities as needed according to priority as determined by the Select Board and to provide maintenance of facility grounds?" By Petition, majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.05 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0).

The Budget Committee does not recommend this appropriation (0-7-2).

Gary Anderson motioned to move Article # 18 to the ballot. Eric Danis seconded the motion.

Gary Anderson then spoke about the article as a member of the Facilities Assessment Committee and that this was a way to have someone available to take care of items as they arose. He also wanted to amend the wording as it was currently vague and handed the amended wording to the Moderator. He stated that he had asked the Board of Selectman to look at this Petition Warrant a second time as it makes the funds available, but they will not be expensed until they are used.

Donna Danis that stated that there have been problems with the town buildings and that the at the town offices, the employees have been doing the maintenance.

The Moderator read the article as amended by Gary Anderson.

“Shall the Town of Nottingham raise and appropriate \$40,000. To create a maintenance line item in order to contract with a property maintenance resource for regular maintenance items including interior or exterior items at all town facilities as deemed priority by the selectboard. By petition, majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.05 per \$1,000 of property evaluation.?”

The Board of Selectmen had asked Gary to amend the article to allow more flexibility. Pam Kelly seconded the amendment.

The Town attorney then suggested to amend the article to eliminate “maintenance line item” ad add the wording “maintenance appropriations”

Gary motioned to accept the amendment; Eric Danis seconded the motion.

The article then read:

Article 18 “Shall the Town of Nottingham raise and appropriate \$40,000 to create a maintenance appropriation in order to contract with a property maintenance resource for regular maintenance items

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including interior or exterior items at all town facilities as deemed priority by the selectboard.” By Petition, majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.05 per \$1,000

Michael Koester supported the article and its amendment.

Teresa Bascom asked why there has not been a line item in the budget already.

John Scruton stated that a new line item cannot be requested at a town meeting.

Donna Danis stated that the Facilities Assessment Committee was asked to prioritize the needs of the town buildings. She stated that Nottingham is a “victim of our own frugality” and that the tax cap limited them even more so. She agreed with Teresa, but this year was an especially difficult one.

Tony Dumas noted that Warrant Article #7 starts to fund a Building Repair Trust Fund.

John Scruton noted that the Recreation Department had requested a maintenance person be hired and that \$8,500 has been requested be added to line item #124 from \$1,500 to \$10,000. He stated that the petitioners were asking to increase the amount to hire skilled maintenance resources needed currently.

Ben Bartlett noted that the labor market is rough and has shrunken so that qualified skilled help is not available. He also noted that the Board is taking steps for the future.

John Decker mentioned Article #7 asks for \$90,000 and that money should have been added to that Article. He suggested that this needs to be addressed.

Donna stated that Article #7d is for large items, and the petition warrant article is for day to day items to be addressed.

Dee Decker asked if the word ‘ground’ meant and entailed.

Donna stated that “facilities and grounds” referred in a general sense and not grass nor mowing.

Gary Anderson then noted that the Facilities Assessment Committee task has not yet been completed.

Michelle King suggested that this needs to become a line item in the budget for the future and that the tax cap made things extremely difficult.

Officer Alvarez stated that the Municipal Building which included the Police Department and Town Hall lost water just last night due to the extremely low temperatures and that this item is needed.

Mike Kelly stated that “victim of our own frugality” needs to be addressed. The overall view of where money is spent not that the money has not been spent.

Ben Bartlett stated that ARPA funds have been used and have helped significantly and saved the town a lot of money.

Charlotte Fyfe, as a member of the Facilities Assessment Committee, stated that she is gratified to see the townspeople agree with the recommendation of the committee.

The Moderator then read the Article as amended and motioned to move it to the ballot. She requested a handcard vote as amended. The motion carried.

Tony Dumas motioned to invoke RSA 40:10, Donna Danis seconded the motion, and the motion carried by handcard vote.

The Moderator then read Petition Warrant Article #19.

Article # 19: "Shall we rescind the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, known as the tax cap, as adopted by the town of Nottingham, NH on March 14, 2023, so that there will no longer be a limit on increases to the recommended budget in the amount to be raised by local taxes?"

A motion was made by Gary Anderson that Article #19 be moved to the ballot. Steve Soreff seconded the motion.

Gary then motioned to amend the verbiage to correct the date.

The Moderator then re-read the Article, as amended, as follows:

Article 19 "Shall we rescind the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, known as the tax cap, as adopted by the town of Nottingham, NH on March 8, 2022, so that there will no longer be a limit on increases to the recommended budget in the amount to be raised by local taxes?" By Petition, 3/5ths (60%) vote required.

Steve Soreff seconded the Article as amended.

Gary then spoke and stated that the Board of Selectmen's hands have been tied in order to take care of necessary items that need to be addressed.

Tom Butkiewicz stated that there were mischaracterizations that cuts had been made to donations and assistance. Teresa Bascom said she was in favor of the tax cap. Tom then said in years past increases have been much lower. Mike Kelly suggested we keep the tax cap.

John Scruton stated that we are debating changing of the date of the warrant article and that this item will be addressed on voting day.

Megan Sebasco asked if the Budget Committee has a certain percentage they could use at any time in the process. The answer was that the Budget Committee has control of what goes into the budget, but not what goes out as a final line item. They can suggest and have in the past.

The Moderator motioned to move Article #19 to the ballot as amended. A hand count was taken, and the motion passed.

Tony Dumas motioned to invoke RSA 40:10 and Donna Danis seconded the motion. The motion passed by handcard vote.

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Article #20 Other Business – none conducted.

Steve Soreff asked that before we adjourn, he wanted to thank Dawn Fernald, the Committees, and the Selectboard. He also thanked John Scruton, and that he has set a high bar for future Town Administrators. Both statements were met with a round of applause.

The Moderator announced that there was a donation jar in the back of the room to help a family whose home had burned to the ground the night before.

John Decker motioned to adjourn. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lorraine Anderson".

Lorraine Anderson,
Town Clerk