

Nottingham Budget Committee Meeting

11-18-21

Official Minutes as of 12-2-21

1 Call to Order

2 Members Present: John Decker (Vice Chair), Michael Koester, Sandra Jones, Tom Butkiewicz,
3 Jeffrey Morrison, Bob Kelly, Michael Kelly, Tiler Eaton (Select Board rep), Karyl Martin
4 (School Board rep)

5 Absent: Michelle King, Tom Leveille

6 Others: Lorraine Petrini, Kathy Mayo, Tucker Kelly, Kathy Brown

7 The Vice Chair opened the meeting at 7pm.

8 Approve Minutes

9 **Mr. Koester made a motion to approve the public minutes from 11-4-21 as written. Dr.**
10 **Butkiewicz seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 7-1 with Mr. Eaton abstaining.**

11 Review of Financials

12 School Update

13 Ms. Martin arrived at 7:03pm.

14 Ms. Martin handed out reports of year-to-date expenditures for current fiscal year. The
15 encumbrance columns are not accurate as the system doesn't do it automatically. There is no
16 full-time BA and the superintendent is doing the reports. The YTD is accurate. There is a BA
17 who is consulting for the district part-time.

18 Propane is more expensive than what they budgeted. They put it out to bid. It will be about \$20k
19 over budget. They will pre-buy for next year.

20 Mr. R. Kelly asked how much they went through last year and how big the tank is. Ms. Martin
21 said they bought 40k gallons. Mr. Kelly said he bought another tank at his house and buys in the
22 summer. Ms. Martin said they are paying less than a typical house buys it at.

23 Ms. Martin said they are trying to conserve for SAU transition costs that they will incur this year,
24 which was not budgeted.

25 They are down a Dover bus and one bus for the Nottingham school was recently filled. The
26 health insurance rates came in lower; there was no increase for this upcoming year.

27 CBNA tuition rate is a 2.3% increase for next year; this is lower than what they usually budget
28 for.

29 Mr. R Kelly asked how many students are in kindergarten this year. Ms. Martin said it's
30 approximately 40-45 students in 3 classrooms. She said 2nd grade is the larger grade right now.
31 She said 45 kindergarten students, 43 students in 1st grade, 61 students in 2nd grade. There are 472
32 students in the school with a higher than typical number being homeschooled due to COVID.
33 There are 7 or 8 in identified preschool students with 25 students overall.

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34 *Town Update*

35 Mr. Eaton handed out budget information to the BC.

36 The BOS is meeting every week.

37 The Board of Selectman has discussed briefly what they will do with the proceeds from the USA
38 Springs property. The town received \$900k for that property.

39 The town default budget is slightly under than the previous town operating budget. Mr. Sterndale
40 will come to the next BC meeting.

41 Mr. M. Kelly asked what are the choices for the money from the sale of the property. Mr. Eaton
42 said they might spend it on roads; they haven't made any decisions. They could use some of it to
43 keep the taxes low. Dr. Butkiewicz said they could pay down debt for Mulligan Forest. Ms.
44 Jones said paying off debt seems like a really good choice to help everyone. She said when taxes
45 are lowered one year and then it goes up the next year doesn't sit well with the taxpayers. Dr.
46 Butkiewicz asked if rehabbing the old town hall was an option. Mr. Eaton said they are hoping
47 for money left over from this year to do that. Mr. R. Kelly asked what the interest rate is. Mr.
48 Eaton will find out. Mr. Decker said putting money back into the buildings they own is a good
49 idea as well. The buildings definitely need it.

50 **Committee Reports**

51 *School Facilities*

52 Mr. Koester passed out a handout. There was a meeting today. Ms. Martin said they did not get
53 any proposals from modulars. Some companies wanted to know if an award was definitely going
54 to be made. Some companies wanted more time. They will move forward with the revised cost
55 for the proposed addition. With the new design they don't need to move the road or do as much
56 site work. Ms. Jones said there was a change in the design. It is squared off. Dr. Butkiewicz
57 asked what the different in square footage. Ms. Martin doesn't know. It was \$6.2M for the
58 addition last year and it's down to \$5.5M.

59 Mr. Koester said Scott Brown who works at the Nottingham School said you can't get a bond
60 with a modular. Dr. Butkiewicz asked if the site work is bondable. He had been told that most of
61 costs would be the site work since that's permanent. Ms. Martin said she is not sure. Ms. Martin
62 said there no collateral to bond with site work. Mr. Koester said modulars move when the ground
63 freezes. Dr. Butkiewicz asked how many companies were asked to submit a bid. Ms. Martin said
64 5-7 companies contacted the SAU but she doesn't know how many were reached out to. Dr.
65 Butkiewicz said the modular option has been pushed to the side and not much effort has been
66 made to get bids. It's ridiculous that we didn't get any bids; you could call other companies for
67 excavation/site work. Ms. Martin said you need more than excavation; you need a pad. Dr.
68 Butkiewicz said they can ask for better materials, etc. for modulars.

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69 Mr. Decker said Raymond doesn't use their modulars any longer as their addition was approved.
70 Ms. Martin said Hampstead put in temporary modulars and the site work was torn up when they
71 put an addition up. Mr. Decker said it's basically a house. Dr. Butkiewicz asked if there is a limit
72 on where the addition can go. If the modulars can hold up for 20 years, you can put an addition
73 up in future years. If the enrollment continues to decline, you may not need an addition. Mr.
74 Morrison and Mr. R. Kelly questioned if they really need an addition. Mr. Koester suggested
75 Scott Brown speak to the BC about modulars. Mr. Morrison said they should pursue quotes for
76 modulars. Dr. Butkiewicz suggested calling around to find out the cost of the site work. Mr.
77 Eaton mentioned the option of free standing steel buildings. Mr. R. Kelly said they are making
78 houses of steel boxes. Ms. Martin said they get feedback every year from the high school
79 students that they are behind students from other districts for world language. Mr. R. Kelly said
80 they can take that in high school. Ms. Martin said they get feedback each year from the high
81 school that Nottingham kids are behind others in high school for world language. Ms. Martin
82 said they are not locked into using the rooms for what they have listed on the addition proposal.
83 Mr. R. Kelly said parents can take charge and teach their kids world language.

84 Dr. Butkiewicz asked Mr. Koester to get quotes for modular not the site work. Mr. Koester said
85 the SB has shelved the idea of modulars. Ms. Martin said they would have to put another RFP
86 out. She will bring that idea to the next SB meeting. Mr. Koester said they can get a rough quote.
87 Ms. Martin said they are running out of time.

88 Mr. R. Kelly said enrollment is going down over time at the Nottingham School.

89 Mr. Koester said they should have Chris Sousa speak to the BC; the test scores are up and they
90 are no longer a school in need of improvement. Square foot per student isn't what should be used
91 to determine the need of the addition; there are other programs that students need now. Ms.
92 Martin said they are down one classroom; the current fifth grade has 2 classrooms. You are
93 relying on one classroom to have a small grade every year. Mr. Decker suggested taking the
94 teacher's room. Ms. Martin said they will be taking that for the preschool classroom. Mr. R.
95 Kelly said they have less students now than several years ago. Ms. Martin said there are more
96 students being homeschooled right now due to COVID and they may come back. Dr. Butkiewicz
97 would like to have Chris Sousa speak to the SB. Dr. Butkiewicz said the school claims to need
98 more money when they perform poorly and they need more money when they perform well. He
99 read from the town's CIP report that it is expected to take 25 years to gain another 1000 people
100 in our town and the number of students is expected remain flat.

101 Dr. Butkiewicz said he sees 6 classrooms in the proposed addition. Mr. R. Kelly says he sees 7
102 classrooms. Ms. Martin said there were some pull out rooms for special ed. but they have been
103 eliminated from the proposed addition.

104 *SAU Transition*

105 Mr. Decker said they met on Tuesday. A second financial company was supposed to present and
106 they did not show up. They went over a demo from ADP. They are looking to eliminate software

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to reduce costs. Ms. Martin said they can outsource HR functions to save money. Dr. Butkiewicz asked if the town and school can share software services. Ms. Martin said the school needs more advanced systems than the town. Dr. Butkiewicz asked if the town can use the school's new software. Ms. Martin said Chris Sterndale said ADP would charge them as two separate companies. Mr. Decker said the town and school systems are different.

Mr. R. Kelly asked if there were some estimates for the old town hall. Mr. Eaton said they have not put out the RFP but they have had some people look at it. The BOS is waiting to see how much money they have left over to give to this project.

Capital Improvement Plan

Ms. Martin said there is a meeting on Tuesday.

Transportation Committee

Ms. Martin said they are hoping to have bids after Thanksgiving.

Ms. Jones would like to have a straw vote whether they feel like the addition for the school is ever going to meet general BC expectations. Dr. Butkiewicz said they don't have a say on it. Ms. Jones said they do have a say because they have a recommendation vote; if BC recommends something, the town usually passes it. Mr. Eaton said with SB2 since you don't have to go the meeting and you go to the ballot box, it's different. Ms. Jones said the BC has a huge amount of power but Dr. Butkiewicz disagrees. Dr. Butkiewicz said the voters get to decide and he believes the outcome will not be any different than last year when the proposed addition is only 9% lower. If you reduce it by 30-40%, then it may pass. Mr. Decker said the town has been provided with only a single choice: do this giant choice or get nothing. Ms. Martin said the SB voted to move forward with the proposed addition since they don't have quotes on modular. Dr. Butkiewicz said they have never presented an A or B option. Dr. Butkiewicz said if the school is going to propose only a stripped down version of the addition, he will not recommend it. Mr. R. Kelly said costs are up so it's not the school's fault. Mr. Eaton said he will show the BC a steel building; it's \$3M in CT. Ms. Martin said there is a MA company that does these and they have looked at these at SB meetings. She doesn't think that will include the site work and it has to be firewalled; it's not just throw down a slab down and be done. Dr. Butkiewicz asked if they could have 2 separate buildings for the school. Ms. Martin asked how that would be cheaper. Mr. Decker said there would have to be 2 principals, etc. Mr. R. Kelly asked if there is a 3rd floor option to the current school. Ms. Martin said any renovations would require sprinklers.

Other

Parting Thoughts

Next Meeting: December 2

On December 7, Mr. Sterndale will come to the meeting to present the town budget.

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142 **Adjourn**

143 **Dr. Butkiewicz made a motion to adjourn at 8:20pm. Mr. R. Kelly seconded. Unanimously**
144 **approved by a vote of 9-0.**