

Nottingham Budget Committee Meeting

1-14-21

Official Minutes as of 9-16-21

1 Call to Order

2 Members Present: Tim Dabrieo (Chair), John Decker (Vice Chair), Tom Leveille, Michael
3 Koester, Michelle King, Sandra Jones, Shawn Green, Tom Butkiewicz, James Stevens, John
4 Morin (Select Board rep), Karyl Martin (School Board rep)

5 Absent:

6 Others: Lorraine Petrini, Chris Sterndale, Donna Danis, Bonnie Winona MacKinnon, Gary
7 Anderson, John

8 Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm.

9 Review of the new changes to Proposed Town Operating Budget

10 Mr. Sterndale said the proposed town operating budget has not changed since the last time the
11 BOS reviewed. The proposed budget increase is 1.8%. The petition WA deadline has passed.

12 Review updated Revenue Projections

13 \$1,880,000 is the projection revenues for 2021-22. They have never come up short for revenue
14 projections in the past. Motor vehicle registration is the biggest revenue for the town even in this
15 past year with COVID. Mr. Dabrieo said he thought there would be a larger drop for recyclables
16 revenue than there was for the past year. Mr. Sterndale said it was down from the year before and
17 they expect it to continue to go down slowly. Mr. Stevens asked if the land on Rte. 4 is expected
18 to be sold this year. Mr. Sterndale said they don't know when it will sell or how much they will
19 get for it. It will go in the fund balance in the next year.

20 Review of the other Warrants

21 There are no changes to the WA. The fund sources have changed for Article 13 and 14; those
22 will be funded by the fund balance. The fund balance was larger because they didn't anticipate
23 some revenues and other budget items that they did not purchase because of COVID. It will be
24 \$1.8M. BOS proposed about ½ of that in appropriations. The rest will remain in the fund
25 balance. The recommended amount that should remain in the fund balance is 8-14%. It will be
26 about 9.25%. There were no citizen WA with appropriations.

27 Public Hearing

28 Opening Remarks

29 Mr. Dabrieo explained that the BOS and BC have been meeting since November. They will go
30 through the budget section by section. If the audience would like to ask questions, they can speak
31 up to 3 minutes per topic. Public comment will close at the end of the hearing and the BC will
32 vote to recommend.

33 Presentation of the Proposed Budget

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The executive dept. total increased by 1.5%. The town clerk increased by 5.3%. The election dept. decreased by 74.6% as there are no major elections. Financial admin section decreased 0.7%. Assessing dept increased 2.5%. Legal dept decreased 21.4%. Personnel admin increased 6.2%. Planning board dept remained flat. Zoning board dept. remained flat. Town hall and other building dept total decreased 5.6%. Cemeteries dept. remained flat. Insurance dept. increased 2.3%. Regional planning assoc. dept. remained flat. Police dept. increased 0.4%. Fire/rescue dept increased 3.4%. Building inspector dept. increased 6.8%. Emergency management dept. remained flat. Highway dept. dept. increased 6.2%. Shim/sealcoat dept. remained flat. Recycling center increased by 13.1%. Animal control dept. remained flat. General assistance dept. remained flat. Social services total remained flat. Recreation dept total increased 4.3%. library dept total increased 0.6%. historical society dept remained flat. Conservation commission increased by 3.1%. Debt service dept. decreased by 2.9%. The proposed operating budget increased by 1.8%.

Presentation of the Warrants

Article 5: \$30,500 for storm water asset management program

Mr. Dabrieo read the WA. Mr. Sterndale said they can't appropriate fund balance to pay for this program.

Article 6: \$25,953 for ambulance operation

Dr. Butkiewicz asked why ambulance services isn't in the budget. Mr. Sterndale said it may to make it easier to ride out the changes in revenues. The revenue for this is insurance billing and it could bounce around. Mr. Sterndale continued perhaps they did it this way to keep it off the budget as you wouldn't want to make decisions based on what was going on in the budget.

Article 7: \$100,000 for fire vehicle capital reserve fund

Mr. Dabrieo read the article.

Article 8: \$22,000 for fire station renovations

Mr. Dabrieo read the article.

Article 9: \$300,000 for highway road reconstruction and maintenance

Mr. Dabrieo read the article.

Article 10: \$100,000 for highway vehicle capital reserve fund

Mr. Dabrieo read the article.

Article 11: \$240,000 for highway dump truck purchase

Mr. Dabrieo read the article.

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66 *Article 12: \$20,000 for revaluation capital reserve fund*

67 Mr. Dabrieo read the article.

68 *Article 13: \$23,400 for renovation of community center kitchen*

69 Mr. Dabrieo read the article.

70 *Article 14: \$181,000 for highway front-end loader purchase*

71 Mr. Dabrieo read the article.

72 *Article 15: \$10,000 for E-911 addressing compliance*

73 Mr. Dabrieo read the article.

74 *Article 16: \$13,000 for cemetery road repair and repaving south side*

75 Mr. Dabrieo read the article.

76 *Article 17: \$5000 for tri-centennial expendable trust fund*

77 Mr. Dabrieo read the article.

78 *Article 18: \$10,000 for invasive species expendable trust fund*

79 Mr. Dabrieo read the article.

80 *After the close of the Public Hearing, the Committee will reconvene to consider the public*
81 *comments as we discuss any proposals to adjust the Operating Budget and vote whether to*
82 *recommend each of the Warrants deemed to have financial impact. Public is invited to stay and*
83 *observe.*

84 *Other warrant articles*

85 Dr. Butkiewicz asked if the BC made a recommendation on the citizen warrant articles. Mr.
86 Decker said they are already spending money on the private roads mentioned on the WA. Mr.
87 Sterndale said the recommendation won't be on the warrant, but he will check on that. Dr.
88 Butkiewicz said he thinks it is a great idea for the BC to give a recommendation because the WA
89 is very short and this would give more information to the taxpayers. Ms. Jones said it doesn't
90 seem like it will change because the town is covering the costs. Mr. Leveille asked if there is a
91 potential for the town to have to pay more for these roads. Mr. Sterndale said there is a potential
92 because some of these roads may need to be reconstructed. Mr. Morin said no. Mr. Sterndale said
93 if the town maintains it, they need to take care of them. Mr. Leveille asked if the people who live
94 on these roads can ask the town to upgrade these roads. Mr. Sterndale said yes. Mr. Morin said
95 there are other town roads are not up to standards. Dr. Butkiewicz asked if they are maintaining
96 these roads. Mr. Sterndale said yes. Ms. Jones said they need to maintain these roads to get the
97 ambulance, etc. down these roads. Ms. Danis said recommendations should appear, if at all,

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98 only on appropriations articles. The law does not authorize the inclusion of recommendation on
99 non-money articles.

100 **Ms. Jones made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Koester seconded. Unanimously**
101 **approved by a vote of 11-0.**

102 **Post Public Hearing**

103 *Acceptance of Default Budget*

104 **Ms. Jones made a motion to accept the default budget. Mr. Green seconded. Unanimously**
105 **approved by a vote of 11-0.**

106 *Acceptance of Revenue Projections*

107 **Mr. Koester made a motion to accept the revenues projections as presented. Ms. Jones**
108 **seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0.**

109 *Consideration of Warrant Town Operating Budget*

110 Dr. Butkiewicz looked through some values from Avitar to analyze mean and median house
111 values. Based on his analysis, Dr. Butkiewicz said a median house value would be \$350K. He
112 proposed adding the following information for each of the WA: for a median house of \$350k, the
113 additional taxes would cost \$X. Mr. Decker supports that proposal if the \$ per \$1000 is also on
114 the WA. Mr. Morin and Dr. Butkiewicz discussed how this may be different for Article
115 4/Budget. Mr. Morin is thinking about how the people will interpret this information. Ms. Jones
116 thinks more information is confusing. Dr. Butkiewicz said that this is less confusing as the other
117 way people have to figure out a math problem to figure out how this affects their taxes. Mr.
118 Morin said many people roll their taxes into escrow. He said it's still a math problem because
119 there is only 1 house value listed and their house may be more or less. Mr. Koester said if it is
120 presented 16 different ways for all the WA, it makes it seem like this is all about your taxes. Dr.
121 Butkiewicz said all of these are about how they affect taxes. Ms. Martin said if this is not up to
122 BC, we should move on.

123 **Dr. Butkiewicz made a motion that the BC recommends to the BOS and SB that WA, when**
124 **they carry a tax impact statement that, in addition to the usual statement for dollars per**
125 **thousand evaluation, include the total amount of the average house value using \$350k will**
126 **have their taxes increased by.**

127 **There is no second. Motion does not carry.**

128 Dr. Butkiewicz said they should put this information on the WA. He believes it is not telling the
129 taxpayers all the information.

130 Mr. Morin said they are not hiding anything.

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131 **Ms. Jones made a motion to recommend Article 4 on the warrant as written. Mr. Stevens**
132 **seconded.**

133 Mr. Decker said now would be the time if anyone wants to change anything on the budget.

134 **It was approved by a vote of 10-1, with Dr. Butkiewicz abstaining.**

135 *Consideration of other Warrants*

136 *Article 5: \$30,500 for storm water asset management program*

137 **Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 5 on the warrant as written. Mr. Green**
138 **seconded. It was approved by a vote of 10-1, with Dr. Butkiewicz abstaining.**

139 *Article 6: \$25,953 for ambulance operation*

140 **Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 6 on the warrant as written. Ms. Jones**
141 **seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0.**

142 *Article 7: \$100,000 for fire vehicle capital reserve fund*

143 **Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 7 on the warrant as written. Ms. Jones**
144 **seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0.**

145 *Article 8: \$22,000 for fire station renovations*

146 **Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 8 on the warrant as written. Ms. Jones**
147 **seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0.**

148 *Article 9: \$300,000 for highway road reconstruction and maintenance*

149 **Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 9 on the warrant as written. Ms. Jones**
150 **seconded.**

151 Ms. Martin said this is for maintenance not upgrading and wonders why it is part of this article.
152 Mr. Morin said this is reconstruction, overlaying. Mr. Sterndale said it is tough to increase the
153 operating budget by \$300k. Mr. Decker said it was part of the budget years ago and it was pulled
154 out. Ms. Jones said it is very different from road sweepers, etc. than paving, etc. Ms. Martin said
155 it is very different than paving Ledge Farm and this is what is used for Ledge Farm last year. Mr.
156 Decker said that is the point; people can decide on if they want to approve.

157 Mr. Leveille asked if they should have a capital reserve fund for road projects. Mr. Stevens said
158 he agreed. Mr. Decker said they should be listed in the CIP. Mr. Morin asked if the guard rail
159 needed work on McCrellis. Mr. Sterndale and Mr. Leveille said the work is complete.

160 **It was approved by a vote of 8-3, with Dr. Butkiewicz, Mr. Green, Mr. Leveille nay.**

161 *Article 10: \$100,000 for highway vehicle capital reserve fund*

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162 **Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 10 on the warrant as written. Ms. Jones**
163 **seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0.**

164 *Article 11: \$240,000 for highway dump truck purchase*

165 **Mr. Koester made a motion to recommend Article 11 on the warrant as amended with the**
166 **article number referenced in the WA be changed to Article 10. Mr. Decker seconded.**
167 **Unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0.**

168 *Article 12: \$20,000 for revaluation capital reserve fund*

169 **Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 12 on the warrant as written. Mr. Green**
170 **seconded. It was approved by a vote of 10-1, with Dr. Butkiewicz nay.**

171 *Article 13: \$23,400 for renovation of community center kitchen*

172 **Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 13 on the warrant as written. Ms. Jones**
173 **seconded. It was approved by a vote of 9-2, with Dr. Butkiewicz, Mr. Stevens nay.**

174 *Article 14: \$181,000 for highway front-end loader purchase*

175 **Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 14 on the warrant as written. Ms. Jones**
176 **seconded.**

177 Mr. Green asked if this is the existing front-end loader that had a fire in it this summer. Mr.
178 Sterndale said yes, they are replacing it.

179 **Unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0.**

180 *Article 15: \$10,000 for E-911 addressing compliance*

181 **Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 15 on the warrant as written. Ms. King**
182 **seconded.**

183 Dr. Butkiewicz said he will be voting no and he said that people do not want to change their
184 address. Mr. Decker said he is concerned about safety. Ms. King is concerned about safety. Dr.
185 Butkiewicz said it will affect a large number of people. Mr. Morin said the lake roads will
186 affected. Ms. Martin said it will be all the lake roads. Mr. Decker said he thought it would be
187 more than 50% of residents who will have their address affected. Mr. Sterndale thinking about
188 whether it is a reasonable amount to spend and let the voters decide if they want to go through
189 this. Dr. Butkiewicz asked if residents have complained. Mr. Sterndale said no but the
190 complaints are coming from public safety folks. Average residents think that addresses as is are
191 fine. Dr. Butkiewicz said google can find most houses. Mr. Morin said if the Raymond fire dept
192 is going to be the first one at your house because you live on the Raymond side of town and if
193 they can't find you, it will take longer for a response. Ms. King said she is in favor. Dr.

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194 Butkiewicz said he doesn't want to put people through changing their address. Mr. Decker said
195 the roads may differ in winter vs. summer for google to tell you how to get to a particular road.

196 **It was approved by a vote of 9-2, with Dr. Butkiewicz, Mr. Stevens nay.**

197 *Article 16: \$13,000 for cemetery road repair and repaving south side*

198 **Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 16 on the warrant as written. Ms. Jones**
199 **seconded.**

200 Dr. Butkiewicz asked if Teresa requested this. Mr. Sterndale said the cemetery trustees
201 recommended. **Unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0.**

202 *Article 17: \$5000 for tri-centennial expendable trust fund*

203 **Dr. Butkiewicz made a motion to not recommend Article 17 on the warrant as written.**

204 He doesn't feel it's the taxpayer's responsibility to pay for this.

205 Ms. Jones said it is confusing way to word this.

206 **Mr. Koester seconded.**

207 Mr. Decker said this is quite a bit of money in this fund for a party. Ms. King said hasn't this
208 been on the ballot before? Mr. Morin said it is the last year they are asking for the money. Mr.
209 Stevens asked if they are allowed to have a party. Ms. Martin said they are having several events.
210 Mr. Morin said the money will come back to the town if not spent. Ms. Jones said they are going
211 to have some known entertainers and fireworks.

212 **The vote failed by a vote of 5-6, with Mr. Dabrieo, Mr. Green, Ms. Jones, Mr. Koester, Ms.**
213 **Martin, and Mr. Morin nay.**

214 **They will write on the WA that they recommend the appropriation 6-5 instead.**

215 *Article 18: \$10,000 for invasive species expendable trust fund*

216 **Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 18 on the warrant as written. Ms. Jones**
217 **seconded. It was approved by a vote of 10-1, with Dr. Butkiewicz nay.**

218 **Committee Updates**

219 *School Facilities*

220 Mr. Morin said the school bond hearing was very poorly attended by the public. He would have
221 thought more people would have attended via zoom. Mr. Dabrieo said you can't see how many
222 people are watching from youtube. Mr. Decker said he thought there were very few people on
223 zoom. Mr. Green said he did not see how many people were on youtube. Ms. Martin said it had
224 39 views.

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225 *School Transportation*

226 Ms. Martin said the SB is negotiating with Dail before signing the one-year extension. Mr.
227 Leveille said it is hard when you don't have options. Ms. Martin said spec. ed has a different
228 company for transportation and it is more limited for the number of companies who bid. Ms.
229 King asked if conex, sheds, etc. by the school are full. Ms. Martin said she is not sure if they are
230 full. Ms. King asked if they could purchase another conex for the items in the locker room. Ms.
231 Martin said she is not sure if the items currently stored in the locker rooms are used right away
232 and need an easier access than outside in conex. Mr. Decker said the locker rooms have been
233 used for storage for a long time. Ms. King said the finance piece of the addition is hard to
234 swallow; she acknowledges that the school needs more room. Ms. Martin said they have trailers
235 in the CIP.

236 *Capital Improvement Plan*

237 Ms. King was unable to attend as the BC had a meeting on Tuesday.

238 *SAU Planning Committee*

239 The proposed plan to withdraw from the SAU was approved by the state board.

240 **Approve Minutes**

241 **Mr. Decker made a motion to table the meeting minutes from 1/12/21. Dr. Butkiewicz**
242 **seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 11-0.**

243 **Other**

244 *Next Meeting*

- 245 • *Town Deliberative scheduled on Jan. 30th at 9am in the school gym; subject to change*
- 246 • *School Deliberative scheduled on Feb. 2 at 6:30pm in the school gym; subject to change*

247 Mr. Koester asked if there was an option for virtual if the meeting takes place in person. Mr.
248 Dabrieo said no. Ms. Martin said if they have the meeting virtually, there will be 2 meetings. Ms.
249 Martin noted that you would not be able to participate via zoom if the meeting takes place in
250 person. Mr. Morin hopes that they can have a meeting in person and the town and school voting
251 will be the same day.

252 **Adjourn**

253 **Mr. Decker made a motion to adjourn at 8:55pm. Dr. Butkiewicz seconded. Unanimously**
254 **approved by a vote of 11-0.**

255