

Nottingham Budget Committee Meeting

DATE: December 1, 2022

Official Minutes December 22, 2022

**Call to Order**

**Members Present:** Michelle King, Chair; Owen Friend-Gray; Michael Kelly; Jeffrey Morrison; John Decker, Vice Chair; John Morin, Select Board Representative; Karyl Martin, School Board Representative; Robert Kelly; Tom Butkiewicz.

**Members Absent:** Tom Leveille; Sandra Jones.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

**Approval of Minutes**

*Mr. Decker made the motion to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. [Robert] Kelly. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0-0.*

**Town Budget Draft**

Mr. Morin asked that everyone reference the spreadsheet that was handed out at the last meeting (November 17<sup>th</sup>). He advised that the \$300,000 line item pertaining to the Fire Department had been changed to \$225,000 because the warrant article divides the \$300,00 into \$75,000 for the 2022 Fiscal Year and \$225,000 for the 2023 Fiscal Year. He advised that this changes all the numbers for the whole town, and that the \$75,000 should probably go into the default budget.

Mr. Decker advised that the \$225,000 should also go into the default budget because it was approved. Mr. Morin voiced agreement.

Mr. Morin advised that this would increase the amount that the Town has for expenditures this year, which would increase the amount that the Committee would need to cut in order to meet the 4% increase.

Mr. Decker asked how the cap affects the default budget. Ms. Martin advised that it does not.

Mr. Morin noted that the Committee as well as the Select Board has the difficult job of finding what to cut in order to not exceed the 4% increase. He advised that one thing that the Committee could do is spend down the General Fund in order to buy down the tax rate. However, the problem with this is that the money does not reappear and would not be able to be used the following year.

**Committee Updates**

Mr. Morin advised that the Town has recently signed up for GuideStar, an online fundraising campaign for government entities, in the hopes of collecting some donations toward town departments.

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Mr. [Michael] Kelly inquired as to where impact fees go. Mr. Morin advised that they get divvied up between the Fire Department, Recreation Department, Police Department, and the School. Impact fees can only be used for certain things. Mr. Morin further advised that if a department does not use the impact fee in a certain number of years, the money goes back to the property owner.

Mr. Morin advised that there are plans to move the Parks and Recreation Office so that the team may have more space, since their participation numbers are growing.

Mr. Morin reported that tax bills are going to be late due to some systemic glitches. Residents will still have thirty days to pay their bill.

Mr. Martin advised that the School Board will have a Business Administrator/Finance Manager starting on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, the Superintendent is putting the School Budget together. She advised that the Board is hoping to present their first draft of the budget to the Committee at the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, rather than the original plan of the December 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, so as to allow more time for revisions. Mr. Morin and Ms. King voiced support of this.

Ms. King advised that she does not have anything to report for CIP other than that they are going to start having meetings.

Mr. Butkiewicz advised that he did some math after the last meeting (November 17<sup>th</sup>). He calculated that the total cost for phone and internet service is \$23,118. He also calculated that the total cost of postage is \$16,120. He suggested that these may be areas in which money could be saved by looking closely at the expenses.

**Adjourn**

***Mr. Friend-Gray made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion was unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0-0.***

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

*Transcribed per video*

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Dallaire