

Nottingham Budget Committee Meeting

Minutes

1/23/20

1 **Call to Order**

2 Members Present: Michael Koester (Chair), John Decker (Vice Chair), Karyl Martin, Erin
3 Maskwa, Tim Dabrieo, Lee Lederer, Sandra Jones, Roslyn Chavda (School Board rep), Tom
4 Leveille

5 Excused Absence: Michelle King

6 Absent: Benjamin Bartlett (Select Board rep)

7 Others: Chris Sterndale, Shawn McLane

8 Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm.

9 **Town Budget**

10 Mr. Sterndale introduced Shawn McLane. Mr. McLane said he oversees the highway dept and
11 the recycling dept. There are 4 full time employees in highway dept. (5 including himself) and 4
12 part-time employees in recycling dept. Mr. Sterndale said the budget has not changed since last
13 time they met with the BC. Ms. Jones asked if they have a schedule for roads that are going to be
14 improved. Mr. McLane said they have a pavement management plan which they have been
15 following however, Ledge Farm Road has taken some of that money and time. They will be
16 looking at that plan again to update in the future. Ms. Jones asked if because Ledge Farm Road
17 will be paved this year, other roads will not be paved this year and if other roads will be paved
18 next year. Ms. Jones said some of the other roads are deteriorating; Mr. McLane said they are
19 working on some of the other roads in small parts if necessary. Mr. Decker spoke about pulling
20 money from other places for Ledge Farm Road. Mr. Sterndale said the engineers are doing the
21 final design now for Ledge Farm Road and they will put this to bid in March. Once they have the
22 bidding information, they will know if they can do Ledge Farm Road in one year or two. Mr.
23 Sterndale said they think they should be able to do it in one year. Mr. Decker asked if they can
24 put it in budget now but Mr. Sterndale said they won't have actual bids. He mentioned they
25 could basecoat Ledge Farm Road this year and do the rest the following year. Mr. Decker said
26 they could save money if they did it all the same time and suggested increasing the line for
27 Ledge Farm Road by 10%. Mr. Sterndale said he could take that offer to the BOS. Ms. Lederer
28 asked how much they could save if they did it at one time. Mr. McLane said that it's usually a
29 3.5% increase. Ms. Martin asked if it was the bond request bid that they were still working off of.
30 Mr. Sterndale said they did the hardest part of the road already. Mr. McLane said they are in
31 good shape for salt; they have used about 1/3 of what is allocated. Mr. Koester asked when roads
32 are salted, are they equipped to turn salt on and off and do they salt curves and straight ways. Mr.
33 McLane said during the storm they do the curves and after the storm, they do the whole road. It
34 is not liquid salt that is applied. Ms. Lederer asked about the plastics at the recycling center and
35 asked if the town could sell to someone else. Mr. Sterndale said all material sales go through the
36 consortium known as NRRA which shops the buyers for the recycling materials. Ms. Lederer
37 asked about plastic companies that may want the materials that the recycling plant no longer

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takes. Mr. Sterndale said they have not heard anything. They are looking for other hauling options. There was discussion about renting or buying the containers holding recyclables. Mr. Sterndale said it doesn't make sense for our scale to buy trucks or shop items on their own. Mr. Koester asked where the items are going; plastics are going to MA or further south. Mr. Koester said perhaps they can move the materials somewhere and grind together. The universal complaint is contamination, Mr. Sterndale said. Mr. McLane said it wouldn't be practical for us to grind it down. The recyclables are sent out 2-3x a year, Mr. Sterndale said. Mr. Sterndale said it costs 50% more for single stream recycling.

Proposed Public Works Budget

Mr. McLane said the diesel fuel tank on Flutter Street has algae in the tank due to sulfur content in the tank. The cetane level is low. There was also sludge in the bottom of fuel tank; there is no way to get it completely cleaned but they removed as much as they could. A chemical is injected into the tank now to get rid of the algae. The annual cost for this is \$6k. The tanks are 15 years old and have a 20-year life expectancy. They now have gas cards to fill the vehicles in Nottingham highway dept. Ms. Lederer asked if it is more cost effective in the long run to replace the tank. Mr. McLane said they are looking at that in the future. Mr. Sterndale said they may move the tanks when they do need to replace them.

Updates to Town Budget and Warrants

Mr. Sterndale said there are some petitions with no money associated with them.

Ms. Martin asked about the reserve funds. Mr. Sterndale said that the highway reserve fund has nothing in it currently because they bought the dump truck and the fire reserve fund has \$75K. They will need an ambulance in 2 years. They are replacing the boiler in the community center. The BOS will decide on community center kitchen renovation at the next meeting. Mr. Dabrieo asked about legal fees for the town. Mr. Sterndale said they will be using more money for lawsuits in the next year. Ms. Martin asked about legal fees for the 2019 case; Mr. Sterndale said he can get them a final number for that.

School Update

Dr. Chavda said there are no school updates. Ms. Lederer asked if there will be another public presentation with the architect. Dr. Chavda said they would like to do that but nothing has been scheduled. She will follow up with Susan Levenson.

Committee Reports

Capital Improvement Plan

Ms. Lederer distributed the CIP and spoke about the plan. In 2024 the school will be replacing the roof and handlers for \$202K. Ms. Martin asked what the \$60k was for this year listed. Ms. Lederer said it was for the feasibility study by the architect. There was discussion that the dollar

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amount may be changed. Dr. Chavda said that the \$60k may have been the initial cost for the architect study but it has gone up since then. Dr. Chavda will ask the School Board. The highway dept. will be using google maps to track their work. Ms. Lederer said that the communities around us are expanding faster than Nottingham. Ms. Maskwa said the number of students in each classroom in the school are indicative of the higher population in Nottingham. Dr. Chavda said that there are houses being bought right away in Nottingham. There was further discussion about house sizes and costs. The fire department has a quint firetruck on the CIP for 2025; it costs \$900k. Ms. Jones said that she believed that truck would not be able to go on some of the roads. Mr. Decker said this truck allows a roof to be vented because it has an attachment that can sit on the roof and it can go most places in town.

Mr. Leveille arrived at 7:17pm.

Approve Minutes

Dr. Chavda made a motion to approve the public minutes from 1/16/20 as written. Ms. Jones seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0.

Other

School Document Signing

MS-27 document was sent around to be signed.

Next Meeting

- 2/5/20: Deliberative Session at Nottingham School at 7pm
- 2/6/20: Public Hearing for Town Budget at 6:30pm

Parting Thoughts

Ms. Lederer spoke about the BC recommending/not recommending on non-budgetary items. There was a discussion.

Adjourn

Dr. Chavda made a motion to adjourn at 8:11pm. Mr. Decker seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0.