

Minutes
Nottingham Budget Committee Meeting
12/5/19

1 Call to Order

2 Members Present: John Decker (Vice Chair), Erin Maskwa, Tim Dabrieo, Lee Lederer, Sandra
3 Jones, Karyl Martin, Michelle King, John Morin (Select Board rep)

4 Absent: Roslyn Chavda (School Board rep), Michael Koester (Chair), Tom Levielle

5 Others: Chris Sterndale, Kathy Brosnan (School Board rep)

6 Vice Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm.

7 Town Update

8 The tax rate for 2019 was set and bills were sent out. The tax rate decreased to \$22.50 due
9 mainly to school savings. More people became eligible for the veterans' tax credit. Mr. Decker
10 asked how the town ranked with tax appropriation rate vs. state rate. Mr. Morin said we were
11 around 80%. The total assessed value of the town will go up next year as the whole town will be
12 reassessed, Mr. Sterndale said. The goal is to be at 100% or a little lower.

13 The 2020 draft operating budget was distributed. The budget is driven by personnel costs this
14 year; several positions were filled and benefit costs increased. 2019 will finish with a surplus;
15 some will be used to offset an increase in 2020. The fire dept. is in good shape right now; there
16 are some positions that need to be filled.

17 Mr. Decker asked what '2019 Remaining' on the spreadsheet is; Mr. Sterndale said that is what
18 is unspent as of September 30. PC hardware and the payroll service will be purchased. Merit
19 based raises are given in the town throughout the year based on anniversary date. Mr. Decker
20 suggested putting more explanation of this in the narrative. Election salaries have increased in
21 addition to having 5 elections in 2020.

22 Tax collector books will be audited as the current person is not running again. Treasurer seat will
23 be open. There is a 7.4% increase in health insurance premiums. There are also 2 positions with
24 added benefits that were hired this year. The town is offering a 2nd option for health insurance
25 which is less expensive and has higher copays and deductibles. The town is offering flexible
26 savings plan and covering some of the deductible. Health insurance costs may decrease if some
27 employees choose the new option for health insurance plans. The town hired a full-time police
28 officer (with benefits and retirement) to replace the 32 hour a week retired police officer
29 investigator. The kitchen wasn't remodeled this year; the old town hall needs to be fixed. They
30 are replacing waste oil furnace system with a propane system. Mr. Morin asked if the furnace
31 system could be sold. It could be. Mr. Morin asked if propane prices were put out to bid; Mr.
32 Sterndale said yes. Mr. Dabrieo asked if the money for the kitchen was going to be used for the
33 old town hall. Mr. Sterndale said yes once they find an electrician. Ms. Lederer asked if they
34 could get a union bid; Mr. Sterndale said they are trying that option. Mr. Sterndale said there is
35 nothing in the budget for the kitchen for next year. The cruisers have updated license
36 subscriptions. A new cruiser was bought. The old police car is used by the Director of Public
37 Works. Per diem fire dept. positions are paid hourly and this is working out along with the full
38 time fire dept. personnel. There is also a point system for fire dept. call force. They are adding

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part-time staff for Sundays to cover calls and provide faster response times. Road signs will be updated to be reflective. They need to treat to kill algae in fuel tanks. The trucks in town run on diesel which have to leave town to get fuel. Some items at recycling are breaking even and not making money by recycling. Recycling center would like a pusher plow for better clean up after storm. Also, they'd like wireless internet capability at recycling facility. After school program was added to recreation dept. There is no operating budget impact due to rec revolving fund. There was discussion on how many people worked at the library. There is an 8% overall increase for operating budget.

Warrant articles potentials include: reserve accounts kept at the same dollar amount as last year and perhaps something from fire dept.

School Update

Ms. Brosnan said they don't have audited financials as there are personnel issues at the SAU. The audit is completed but the results have not been presented to the school board yet.

Committee Reports

School Facilities

There was no meeting today. Next meeting is the 19th.

Capital Improvement Plan

They are meeting in December.

Approve Minutes

Ms. Lederer made a motion to approve the public minutes from 11/21/19 as written. Ms. Jones seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 6-2 abstain (Mr. Morin and Ms. Martin).

Review Action Items for Next Meeting

Other

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be 12/12/19.

Adjourn

Ms. Jones made a motion to adjourn at 8:19pm. Ms. Lederer seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 8-0.