

Nottingham Budget Committee Meeting

1/9/20

Approved Minutes as of 1/16/20

1 Call to Order

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

5 Absent: Erin Maskwa (excused)

6 Others:

7 Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm.

8 Town Update

9 *2nd Draft of 2020 Town Budget*

10 Mr. Sterndale discussed the town meeting warrant articles for 2020 and estimated tax impact.
11 Two citizen petition articles have been received: SB2 for the town and North River Lake Road to
12 be accepted as a town road. Mr. Sterndale went over the revenue sources for the town. Because
13 of the revenues, much of the increases to the budget are offset by the revenues. The estimated tax
14 increase is 0.69%. The estimated town budget for 2020 is \$2,739,736. Mr. Dabrieo asked if they
15 will see a breakdown of the revenues including decreases in revenue; Mr. Sterndale said yes. The
16 additional revenue for the recreation department goes to the rec revolving fund.

17 Mr. Koester asked about town clerk fees. Mr. Sterndale said by statute the town clerk earns a
18 portion of the fees she collects. Mr. Sterndale said they offered a second health insurance plan
19 and 1/3 of the employees took this option. This saved the town approximately \$20K. Ms. Martin
20 asked if they budgeted back-end payments for the deductibles that the town is paying for the
21 employees; Mr. Sterndale said yes. Mr. Sterndale said that Brian Spagna is retiring from the
22 police department; they will save money when they hire someone at a lower cost. Highway
23 projects, community center boiler, and equipment projects were purchased with 2019 money and
24 taken out of the 2020 budget. Ms. Martin asked about kitchen remodel. Mr. Sterndale said they
25 don't have funds budgeted at this time but the BOS may look at that again. Heating maintenance
26 costs in the budget can be reduced due to the new boiler. Mr. Bartlett asked about the old town
27 hall. Mr. Sterndale said that the electrical work will be done for very low cost by Tiler Eaton and
28 workers he procured. Ms. Jones asked about recycling revenue. Mr. Sterndale said they sell all
29 plastics, metals, cans, and cardboard. Paper used to be sold; they pay to get rid of it now. The
30 town pays to get rid of electronics. Mr. Sterndale said they have not decided if they will split
31 Ledge Farm Road paving into one or two projects. There was some further discussion about
32 Ledge Farm Road and other road projects. Mr. Sterndale said there were safety concerns on the
33 sharp corner on Ledge Farm Road which is why they started paving with that end of the road in
34 2019. Mr. Koester asked if Shawn could come speak to the BC meeting. Mr. Dabrieo asked Mr.
35 Sterndale about recycling education. Mr. Sterndale said people do a great job with recycling. Mr.
36 Decker said anything that is not 1 or 2 plastic, people can put it in bulky waste. Ms. Jones said as

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long as there is an environmental benefit to recycling, it is worth doing it. There was discussion on inviting library and recreation to an upcoming meeting and it was determined that they didn't need to come.

Other Town Updates

Jack Myers has left highway department. Mr. Leveille asked how roads are graded. Mr. Bartlett said ideally it is scheduled but there has been some personnel issues over the summer. Shawn McLean, Public Works Director, is hiring new personnel and they need to learn the roads. The roads are not being graded now as they are frozen.

School Update

Dr. Chavda said they have hired a part time Business Administrator as of yesterday. They are hoping to have audited financials soon. The School Board went over the budget yesterday; one change was made which was an error. They are adding a warrant article for a study to remove the Nottingham school district from the SAU. The citizens of Strafford have to vote in March to leave the SAU and the state has to agree. Strafford has left the preschool already. Mr. Koester said that the school board will have the architect at a town forum to go over the proposed addition. The School Board's goal is to have the forum before the Deliberative Session. Dr. Chavda said the School Board is continuing to work on the budget and reduce items where they can. Mr. Koester said the warrant article deadline for the school is tomorrow. Dr. Chavda said they have applied for a waiver for the school building aid through the state. Mr. Koester when the state evaluates an application for School Building Aid, they consider prior aid for that school over the past 50 years, and reduce the qualifying square footage of the current project accordingly. The waivers Dr. Chavda spoke of were to request that the additions to the school's former location (now the community center) not be considered. Mr. Koester asked Dr. Chavda if there were any other towns that would be interested in joining our SAU. Dr. Chavda said one town approached Nottingham in the past but it was too far away and too different than Nottingham. Teacher contract is almost done being negotiated. Mr. Leveille asked about online learning for snow days. Dr. Chavda said that not all students have access to high speed internet due to the infrastructure of the town. Dr. Chavda will speak to the School Board about this further.

Committee Reports

School Facilities

No update.

Capital Improvement Plan

Ms. Lederer said they met today. Chris Sousa said he has a few changes which will be completed and sent soon.

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72 **Other**

73 There was discussion about school public hearing and the format of the meeting next week.

74 **Approve Minutes**

75 **Ms. Lederer made a motion to approve the public minutes from 12/19/19 as amended. Dr.**
76 **Chavda seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 9-1 abstaining.**

77 **Other**

78 Mr. Koester said the town report needs a report from the BC. Mr. Koester and Mr. Decker will
79 work on this.

80 Four BC members are up for reelection. Ms. Martin will not be running again.

81 Tax collector and treasurer positions will be open on town ballot.

82 *Parting Thoughts*

83 *Next Meeting*

84 Public hearing for school budget on January 16.

85 **Adjourn**

86 **Dr. Chavda made a motion to adjourn at 8:03pm. Mr. Decker seconded. Unanimously**
87 **approved by a vote of 10-0.**

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