

Nottingham Budget Committee Meeting
Town Budget Public Hearing
2/6/20
Approved Minutes as of 10/1/20

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, Kelley Gordon (School
4 Board rep)

5 Excused Absent: Erin Maskwa

6 Absent: Benjamin Bartlett (Select Board rep)

7 Others: Sam Demeritt, Therese Thompson, Susan Mooney, Sandra Vilchock, Jaye Vilchock,
8 Tamara Hallee, Tony Hallee, Bonnie Winona, Cheryl Smith

9 Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm.

10 Town Update

11 *Review of New Changes to Proposed Town Operating Budget*

12 Mr. Sterndale said the only change is in legal services on line 82. It increased by \$35k.

13 *Review of Updated Revenue Projections*

14 Mr. Sterndale said nothing has changed.

15 *Review of Other Warrants*

16 Mr. Sterndale said there were new petition warrant articles.

17 Public Hearing

18 *Opening Remarks*

19 Mr. Koester spoke:

20 Tonight's Public Hearing will focus on the Town's Operating Budget for the 2020 Fiscal year, as
21 well as any other Warrant Articles that may have financial impacts. The format of this meeting
22 will be similar to that of the School Budget Public Hearing held last month.

23 The Operating Budget is the anticipated expenditures that require appropriation of tax dollars.
24 Once the Operating Budget Warrant article is adopted by Town Meeting, the town
25 administration has flexibility to transfer funds between line items, normally within the same
26 department, but is limited by the bottom line total, unless authorized by a Special Town
27 Meeting.

28 Tonight's meeting is our opportunity to share with you the result of several discussions in
29 Budget Committee meetings with the Town Administrator over the past several months. The

Nottingham Budget Committee Meeting
Town Budget Public Hearing
2/6/20
Approved Minutes as of 10/1/20

proposed budget developed from those meetings provides for the anticipated appropriations for the Town's services for the 2020 calendar year.

During this Public Hearing session, we encourage you to ask any questions, and to offer your input to this budget, as well as your thoughts on the other warrant articles presented. *Please wait to be recognized by the Chair when you wish to speak.*

When that process is complete, we will close the *Public Hearing* portion of the meeting, and then reconvene as a committee to consider your thoughts, as we make any appropriate changes to the amounts that will comprise the budget that will be presented at Town Meeting on Saturday, March 14. We will also consider and vote to recommend, or not recommend, any other warrants that involve appropriations.

Note that our committee deliberations after the Public Hearing are still "open session" and you are all welcome to stay and *observe*, with the understanding that you *may not be permitted* to offer further comments during that part of the meeting.

Your next opportunity to impact this budget will be at Town Meeting at Nottingham School on March 14. There, registered voters will have an opportunity to propose changes, and to vote on those amendments.

With the support and assistance of the Town Administrator, I will begin with the presentation of the proposed Operating Budget. To expedite this, I will present the department totals, and occasionally speak to line items of significant impact. Please feel free to request a more detailed view of any individual line items and ask any questions you may have.

Mr. Koester concluded.

Presentation of the Proposed Budget

The executive department has an increase of 5.7%. The town clerk department has an increase of 6.8%. The election department has an increase of 269.9% due to the 4 elections this year. The financial admin department is an increase of 4.2%. The assessing department has a decrease of 1.4%. The legal department has an increase of 99.9% due to the \$35k increase. Mr. Sterndale said the town was served with a class action lawsuit regarding private lanes. The BOS will defend their stand and it could be very long and drawn out case.

The personnel admin department has increased 9.3%. The planning board dept. decreased by 17.3%. The zoning dept. has increased by 0.3%. The TH other bldg. dept. has decreased by 10.2%. Cemeteries remains the same. Insurance dept. increased 31.1%. Reg. plan assoc. dept has remained the same. The police dept. has a 9.5% increase. There was staffing change and equipment. The fire/rescue dept. has an increase of 6.8%. The building inspector dept. increased by 4.7%. The emergency management dept. remains the same. The highway dept. has an

Nottingham Budget Committee Meeting
Town Budget Public Hearing
2/6/20
Approved Minutes as of 10/1/20

increase of 6.2%. The shim/sealcoat dept has an increase of 1.7%. It's typical that this line is higher than the previous year. The recycling dept. has an increase of 6.4%. The animal control dept. has no change. The general assistance dept. has a decrease of 2.4%. Social services has no change. Recreation dept. has a 7.4% increase. The library dept. has an increase of 4.5%. The conservation comm. dept. has an increase of 4.5%. The debt. service dept. has a decrease of 13.4%. The proposed operating budget is \$4,145,236 for an increase of 6.9%.

Mr. Koester asked if the public had any input. There was none.

Presentation of Warrants

Article 5 is the operating budget.

Article 6 is regarding the stormwater asset management loan to raise \$30K. Mr. Sterndale said this functions as a loan but the town will receive the money back if they complete the work.

Article 7 is for ambulance operations to raise \$23,152. This is offset by revenue collected from ambulance services.

Article 8 is for a fire vehicle capital reserve fund to add \$100K to the reserve fund.

Article 9 is for highway road reconstruction to raise \$300k.

Article 10 is for fire vehicle/SCBA to add \$100K to the capital reserve fund. Chief Vilchock spoke to this.

Article 11 is for the tri-centennial fund to add \$5k to the ETF.

Article 12 is for revaluation capital reserve fund to add \$20k to the capital reserve fund.

Article 13 is for the invasive species ETF to add \$10k to the trust fund.

Article 14 is to accept North River Lake Rd. as a town road. This is a petition citizen warrant article.

Article 15 is to accept Highland Ave. as a town road. This is a petition citizen warrant article.

Article 16 is for the town to become SB2. It needs 3/5 vote. This is a citizen petition warrant article.

Article 17 is for direct LUCT (land use change tax) to general fund. This is a citizen petition warrant article. There are no petitioners to present this article. Susan Mooney, Cheryl Smith and Sam Demeritt are here from the conservation commission and spoke about what their group does for Nottingham. They are not in favor of this article.

Article 18 is for independent redistricting commission. This is a citizen petition warrant article.

Nottingham Budget Committee Meeting
Town Budget Public Hearing
2/6/20
Approved Minutes as of 10/1/20

After close of Public Hearing, the committee will reconvene to consider the public comments as the BC discuss any proposals to adjust the operating budget and vote whether to recommend each of the warrant deemed to have financial impact. Public is invited to stay and observe.

Acceptance of Revenue Projections

Mr. Decker made a motion to accept the revenue sheet as presented. Mr. Dabrieo seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 9-0.

Considerations of Other Warrants

Mr. Leveille said the merit compensation pool line is confusing. There was discussion. Merit compensation pool allows flexibility to give more or less money to each department. There was questions about how many elections there are in the past few years and the amount of staff needed. Mr. Sterndale will consolidate office supply lines in the budget for next year. There was discussion about medical benefits.

Mr. Leveille made a motion to reduce line 165 to \$1k from \$2500. Mr. Decker seconded. Unanimously approved by vote of 9-0.

Mr. Leveille made a motion to reduce Line 352 to \$450, Line 353 to \$300 and Line 355 to \$100. Ms. Lederer seconded. Unanimously approved by vote of 9-0.

The updated proposed town budget is \$4,143,326.

Ms. Martin made a motion to recommend article 5. Ms. Lederer seconded. Unanimously approved by vote of 9-0.

Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 6. Ms. Gordon seconded. Unanimously approved by vote of 9-0.

Ms. Martin made a motion to recommend Article 7. Ms. Jones seconded. Unanimously approved by vote of 9-0.

Mr. Decker made a motion to recommend Article 8. Ms. Jones seconded. Unanimously approved by vote of 9-0.

Ms. Lederer made a motion to recommend Article 9. Mr. Leveille seconded. Unanimously approved by vote of 9-0.

Mr. Dabrieo made a motion to recommend Article 10. Mr. Decker seconded. Unanimously approved by vote of 9-0.

Mr. Dabrieo made a motion to recommend Article 11. Mr. Leveille seconded. It was approved 8-1 with Mr. Decker voting no.

Nottingham Budget Committee Meeting
Town Budget Public Hearing
2/6/20
Approved Minutes as of 10/1/20

125 **Ms. Gordon made a motion to recommend Article 12. Mr. Dabrieo seconded. Unanimously**
126 **approved by vote of 9-0.**

127 **Ms. Gordon made a motion to recommend Article 13. Mr. Leveille seconded. Unanimously**
128 **approved by vote of 9-0.**

129 **Mr. Decker made a motion for the BC to skip recommendation for Article 14 through**
130 **Article 19. Mr. Leveille seconded.**

131 Mr. Koester is asking for consideration for Article 17. There was discussion about whether
132 Article 17 would have tax impact.

133 **Unanimously approved by vote of 9-0.**

134 **Approve Minutes**

135 **Mr. Koester made a motion to approve the public minutes from 1/23/20 as amended. Mr.**
136 **Leveille seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 7-2 with Ms. King and Ms. Gordon**
137 **abstaining.**

138 **Other**

139 *Next Meeting*

140 TBD in May for purpose of welcoming new member and review procedures, elect chair/vice
141 chair and reps to standing committees, review recent positions of school expenditures and
142 revenues and review recent positions of town expenditures and revenues.

143 *Next Event: Town Meeting*

144 March 10: Ballot Election

145 March 14: School gym

146 *Parting Thoughts*

147 There was discussion about putting an article from the BC in the community newsletter.

148 **Adjourn**

149 **Ms. King made a motion to adjourn at 9:47pm. Ms. Lederer seconded. Unanimously**
150 **approved by a vote of 9-0.**

151