

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
TOWN OF NOTTINGHAM  
2014

The Moderator, Bonnie Winona MacKinnon, called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at the Nottingham Municipal Building. Article #1 was acted upon from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The meeting was recessed at 7:00 PM by the Moderator, to reconvene at 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 15, 2014 at the Nottingham Elementary School to act on **Articles # 2 through # 19.**

At 9:00 AM on March 15, 2014, The Moderator welcomed everyone. She asked that all cell phones be turned off and that voters register to vote with the ballot clerks and receive their red voter cards.

After several announcements were made regarding upcoming community events and fund raisers, the Moderator introduced Emilie Buchanan, a Nottingham Elementary School pupil, (assisted by Michele Carvalho). Emilie gave a presentation to raise awareness of the Nottingham Knights Playground Project, which seeks to raise \$60,000 to up-date and replace playground equipment at the school.

Marjorie Carlson's retirement after serving as the town bookkeeper for 29 years was announced. Heidi Carlson accepted the acknowledgment on her mother's behalf.

It was announced that lifelong resident Phillip C. "Archie" Fernald passed away on March 7, 2014 at the age of 92. He had served the community as Road Agent, Building Inspector, School Board Member and a Budget Committee Member. He further served as a Selectman for 24 years. A moment of silence was observed in his honor.

Dominica Deluca read an excerpt from one of Edgar Everett Hale's editorials regarding the meaning and value of town meeting.

The Moderator announced that lunch was being provided by the Women's Fire Auxiliary and that the proceeds from sales would be used to purchase carbon monoxide detectors for the town residents.

At 9:30 AM, the Moderator called the meeting to order and recognized all of the town officials, thanking them for their service. She further asked that all veterans stand and be recognized. They were given a round of applause. She thanked Brian McClelland for operating the sound/video equipment.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Moderator stated the following additions to rules of procedure (found printed on the inside cover of the Town Report):

- 12. No negative motions.
- 13. No amendments to amendments.

The Moderator read the results of the School District Election held on March 11, 2014:

School Board Member 3 years	Lorraine Ferland
School Board Member 3 years	Susan Levenson
School Board Member 1 year	Lauren Chaurette
Moderator 3 years	Terry Bonser
Treasurer 3 years	Cheryl Travis

The Moderator announced that all of the School District warrant articles had passed at the town elections and that the details of the votes could be found on the Town's web site.

The Moderator then read the results of the Town elections held on March 11, 2014:

Selectman 3 years	Donna Danis
Tax Collector 3 years	William J. Garnett
Treasurer 3 years	Cheryl Travis
Town Moderator 2 years	Bonnie Winona MacKinnon
Cemetery Trustee 3 years	Michael Bascom
Trustee of the Trust Funds 3 years	Gail Powell
Library Trustee 3 years	Sarah Wotton
Planning Board Member 3 years	Charlene Andersen
Planning Board Member 3 years	John Morin
Budget Committee Member 3 years	Michael Koester
Budget Committee Member 3 years	Eugene T. Reed
Budget Committee Member 3 years	Michael (Miska) Hadik (by write-in)
Zoning Board Member 3 years	Terry Bonser
Zoning Board Member 3 years	Bonnie Winona MacKinnon
Board of Assessors Member 2 years	John Morin
Board of Assessors Member 3 years	Jason Neuman

**Article # 2:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,527,486.00 which is the **Budget Committee's recommended amount for the 2014 Operating Budget ( 10 - 0)**. The Board of Selectmen recommends \$3,527,486.00 ( 3 - 0). This article does not include appropriations voted in other special or individual warrant articles addressed in this warrant. (Majority Vote Required) **The estimated Tax Impact is \$3.78** per \$1,000.00 of property valuation.

Article #2 was moved by Hal Rafter and seconded by Mark Carpenter. Town Administrator Charles Brown presented the operating budget.

A motion was made and seconded to amend Article #2, line item 01-4140-.20-010 (EL Salary Moderator) by \$739, bringing the budget total to \$3,528,525 and reflecting a change in the way the Moderator is paid from an annual \$300 stipend to an hourly rate of \$8.66, including payment of the Deputy Moderator.

After discussion, the motion failed by card vote.

A motion was made and seconded to amend Article #2, to increase line item 01-4140-.20-010 (EL Salary Moderator) from \$300 to \$600.

After discussion, the motion passed by card vote.

A motion was made and seconded to amend Article #2 to reduce line item 01-4220.10-010 (Fire Department F/T salary) by \$9,000 from \$117,738 to \$ 108,738.

After discussion, the motion passed by card vote.

A motion was made and seconded to amend Article #2 to increase line item 01-4312.10-012 (Highway Salary P/T) by \$9,000 from \$39,225 to \$48,225.

After discussion, the motion passed by card vote.

**Amended Article # 2:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,527,786.00 as the **2014 Operating Budget..** The Board of Selectmen recommends \$3,527,486.00 ( 3 - 0). This article does not include appropriations voted in other special or individual warrant articles addressed in this warrant. (Majority Vote Required) **The estimated Tax Impact is \$3.78** per \$1,000.00 of property valuation.

Article #2 as amended passed by card vote.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved to invoke the provisions of RSA 40:10 as to Article #2.

The motion passed by card vote.

At Noon, the Moderator announced that there would be a lunch break until 12:40 PM.

The meeting was reconvened at 12:50 PM.

**Article # 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Ninety Nine Thousand and Sixty dollars **\$199,060.00** for Engineering, Design and highway construction and reconstruction on Berry Road and Lincoln Drive or other roads in Nottingham if a priority arises. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the work is complete or not later than one year after the end of fiscal year 2015, whichever occurs earlier. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation ( 3 - 0 ). The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation ( 10 - 0 ).** (Majority Vote Required) **The estimated Tax Impact is \$368** per \$1,000.00 of property valuation.

Article #3 was moved by Mary Bonser and seconded by Mark Carpenter.

After discussion, Article #3 passed by card vote.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved to invoke the provisions of RSA 40:10 as to Article #3.

The motion passed by card vote.

**Article # 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000.00** to be added to the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of purchasing trucks for the Highway Department. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation ( 3 - 0 ). The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation ( 10 - 0 ).** (Majority Vote Required) **The estimated Tax Impact is \$092** per \$1,000.00 of property valuation.

Article #4 was moved by Mary Bonser and seconded by Hal Rafter.

After discussion, Article #4 passed by card vote.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved to invoke the provisions of RSA 40:10 as to Article #4.

The motion passed by card vote.

**Article # 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$50,000.00** to be added to the Fire Department Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of purchasing Fire/Rescue vehicles. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation ( 3 - 0 ). The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation ( 10 - 0 ).** (Majority Vote Required) **The estimated Tax Impact is \$092** per \$1,000.00 of property valuation.

Article #5 was moved by Hal Rafter and seconded by Mary Bonser.

After discussion, Article #5 passed by card vote.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved to invoke the provisions of RSA 40:10 as to Article #5.

The motion passed by card vote.

**Article # 6:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty dollars **\$24,850.00** for the purpose of purchasing the necessary fuel, supplies, equipment, and maintenance to run the ambulance and billing services for 2014; and to authorize the withdrawal of Twenty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty dollars **\$24,850.00** from the Ambulance and Equipment Replacement Special Revenue Fund created for this purpose. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation ( 3 - 0 ). The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation ( 10 - 0 ).** (Majority Vote Required) **No Tax Impact** per \$1,000.00 of property valuation.

Article #6 was moved by Mary Bonser and seconded by Mark Carpenter.

After discussion, Article #6 passed by card vote.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved to invoke the provisions of RSA 40:10 as to Article #6.

The motion passed by card vote.

**Article # 7:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand dollars \$20,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a rescue boat, motor and trailer for the Fire/Rescue Department. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation ( 3 - 0 ). The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (10 - 0).** (Majority Vote Required) **The estimated Tax Impact is \$.037** per \$1,000.00 of property valuation.

Article #7 was moved by Mark Carpenter and seconded by Mary Bonser.

After discussion, Article #7 passed by card vote.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved to invoke the provisions of RSA 40:10 as to Article #7.

The motion passed by card vote.

**Article # 8:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand dollars **\$20,000.00** to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of performing a statutory revaluation of property every five years. The next revaluation will take place in 2015. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation ( 3 - 0 ). The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation ( 10 - 0 ).** (Majority Vote Required) **The estimated Tax Impact is \$.037** per \$1,000.00 of property valuation.

Article #8 was moved by Hal Rafter and seconded by Mark Carpenter.

After discussion, Article #8 passed by card vote.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved to invoke the provisions of RSA 40:10 as to Article #8.

The motion passed by card vote.

**Article # 9:** Per RSA 72:39-b. Shall we modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the Town of Nottingham, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age to 75 years, **\$101,000.00**; for a person 75 years up to 80 years, **\$142,000.00**; for a person 80 years of age or older, **\$184,000.00**. To qualify, the person must be a New Hampshire resident for at least 3 consecutive years preceding April 1 in the year in which the exemption is claimed, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than **\$ 38,000.00** or if married, a combined net income of not more than **\$ 48,000.00**; and own assets not in excess of **\$ 180,000.00** excluding the value of the person's residence. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this article ( 3 - 0 ) The Budget Committee recommends this article. ( 10 - 0 )** (Majority Vote Required)

Article #9 was moved by Mary Bonser and seconded by Hal Rafter.

After discussion, Article #9 passed by card vote.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved to invoke the provisions of RSA 40:10 as to Article #9.

The motion passed by card vote.

**Article # 10:** Per RSA 72:27-a. Shall we modify the disabled exemption from property tax in the Town of Nottingham? The exemption, based on assessed property value shall be **\$101,000.000**. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least 5 years and own and occupy real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by a spouse, they must have been married for at least 5 years. In addition,

the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$ 38,000.00 or, if married, a combined net income of not more than \$ 48,000.00; and own net assets not in excess of \$180,000.00 excluding the value of the person's residence. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this article ( 3 - 0 ) The Budget Committee recommends this article. ( 10 - 0 )** (Majority Vote Required)

Article #10 was moved by Mark Carpenter and seconded by Mary Bonser.

After discussion, Article #10 passed by card vote.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved to invoke the provisions of RSA 40:10 as to Article #10.

The motion passed by card vote.

**Article #11:** Per RSA 72:27-a. Shall we modify the blind exemption from property tax in the Town of Nottingham? The exemption, based on assessed property value shall be \$37,200.00. To qualify, the person must be legally blind as determined by the blind services program, bureau of vocational rehabilitation, department of education. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this article ( 3 - 0 ). The Budget Committee recommends this article ( 10 - 0 ).** (Majority Vote Required)

Article #11 was moved by Hal Rafter and seconded by Mary Bonser.

After discussion, Article #11 passed by card vote.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved to invoke the provisions of RSA 40:10 as to Article #11.

The motion passed by card vote.

**Article # 12:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand dollars \$5,000.00 to be added to the Non-Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of funding the Tri-Centennial Fund for the celebration of the Town of Nottingham's 300<sup>th</sup> Birthday to take place in the year 2022. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation ( 3 - 0 ). The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation ( 10 - 0 ).** (Majority Vote Required) **The estimated Tax Impact is \$.009** per \$1,000.00 of property valuation. (This is the second year of a ten year process.)

Article #12 was moved by Steve Soreff and seconded by Florence Chamberlain.

After discussion, Article #12 passed by card vote.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved to invoke the provisions of RSA 40:10 as to Article #12.

The motion passed by card vote.

**Article # 13:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand dollars \$25,000.00 to be used to demolish and cleanup the buildings located on the Marston Homestead at 229 Mill Pond Road. The buildings are unstable and must be demolished before any public use of the property can take place. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation ( 3- 0 ). The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation ( 10 - 0 ).** (Majority Vote Required) **The estimated Tax Impact is \$.046** per \$1,000.00 of property valuation.

Article #13 was moved by Mark Carpenter and seconded by Mary Bonser.

After discussion, Article #13 passed by card vote.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved to invoke the provisions of RSA 40:10 as to Article #13.

The motion passed by card vote.

**Article # 14:** To see if the Town will vote to establish an Expendable Trust Fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a. Such fund will be used for maintenance, repair or replacement of Heating, Ventilation & Air

Conditioning (HVAC), Electrical, Plumbing or other major systems in Town buildings or facilities.. Furthermore, to raise and appropriate the sum of Three Thousand dollars (**\$3,000**) to be placed in said fund and appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from the fund. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation ( 3 - 0 ). The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation ( 10 - 0 ).** (Majority Vote Required) **The estimated Tax Impact is \$ .006** per \$1,000.00 of property valuation.

Article #14 was moved by Hal Rafter and seconded by Mark Carpenter.

After discussion, Article #14 passed by card vote.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved to invoke the provisions of RSA 40:10 as to Article #14.

The motion passed by card vote.

**Article # 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Six dollars **\$26,966.00** in support of the following Social Service Agencies:

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Seacoast Family Promise ( <b>New this year</b> )	\$100.00
Corner Stone VNA	\$2,393.00
Lamprey Health Care	\$4,500.00
Women's Aid ( <b>Out of Business</b> )	\$00.00
Seacoast Mental Health	\$1,000.00
Child & Family Services	\$1,000.00
Richie McFarland Children Cntr	\$3,600.00
Sexual Assault Support Serv	\$700.00
A Safe Place	\$750.00
AIDS Response Seacoast	\$575.00
Seacoast Big Brother/Sister	\$500.00
Friends Retired Sr. Volunteer. Prog.	\$100.00
Rockingham Co Comm Act Prog	\$5,500.00
Rock Cty Nutrition Meals/Wheels	\$1,398.00
Area Homecare/Family	\$1,100.00
Child Advocacy Center	\$1,250.00
Victims Inc	\$500.00
American Red Cross	\$500.00
Ready Rides	\$1,500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,966.00</b>

**The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation ( 3 - 0 ). The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation ( 10 - 0 ).** (Majority Vote Required) **The estimated Tax Impact is \$ .050** per \$1,000.00 of property valuation.

Article #15 was moved by Mary Bonser and seconded by Hal Rafter.

After discussion, Article #15 passed by card vote.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved to invoke the provisions of RSA 40:10 as to Article #15.

The motion passed by card vote.

**Article # 16:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$ 4,000.00** for the purpose of conducting courtesy inspections of boats using the State Boat Launch at the Fundy Boat Ramp and the

Pawtuckaway State Park Boat Ramps on Pawtuckaway Lake to remove fragments of exotic invasive aquatic species and to educate the public on how to prevent the spread of exotic species from water body to water body. This article was submitted by the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association, by a majority vote. **The Board of Selectmen recommends this appropriation ( 3 - 0 ). The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation ( 9 – 1 abstain ).** (Majority Vote Required) **The estimated Tax Impact is \$ .007** per \$1,000.00 of property valuation.

Article #16 was moved by Steve Soreff and seconded by Peter White.

After discussion, Article #16 passed by card vote.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved to invoke the provisions of RSA 40:10 as to Article #16.

The motion passed by card vote.

**Article # 17:** To see if the Town will vote to accept the existing road commonly known as Gerrior Drive as a Town Road. (Majority Vote Required) (By Petition)

Article #17 was moved by Ellen Lapiejko and seconded by Hal Rafter.

After discussion, Article #17 passed by card vote.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved to invoke the provisions of RSA 40:10 as to Article #17.

The motion passed by card vote.

**Article # 18:** To see if the Town of Nottingham will urge the New Hampshire Legislature to join 500 municipalities and 16 other States in calling upon the United States Congress to move forward a Constitutional amendment as follows:

Section 1. The rights protected by the Constitution of the United States are the rights of natural persons only. Artificial entities established by the laws of any State, the United States, or any foreign state shall have no rights under this Constitution and are subject to regulation by the People, through Federal, State, or local law.

Section 2. Federal, State, and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their economic status, have equal access to the political process, and that no person gains, as a result of their money, substantially more access or ability to influence in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure.

Federal, State, and local government shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed.

The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment. **(By Petition)**

Article #18 was moved by Peter White and seconded by Steve Soreff.

A motion was made by Mary Bonser and seconded by Mark Carpenter to amend Article #18 by removing therefrom Section 1 so that Article #18 read as follows:

**Article # 18:** To see if the Town of Nottingham will urge the New Hampshire Legislature to join 500 municipalities and 16 other States in calling upon the United States Congress to move forward a Constitutional amendment as follows:

Federal, State, and local government shall regulate, limit, or prohibit contributions and expenditures to ensure that all citizens, regardless of their economic status, have equal access to the political process, and that no person gains, as a result of their money, substantially more access or ability to influence in any way the election of any candidate for public office or any ballot measure.

Federal, State, and local government shall require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed.



The judiciary shall not construe the spending of money to influence elections to be speech under the First Amendment.

After discussion, the amendment to Article #18 failed by card vote.

Article #18 as written passed by card vote.

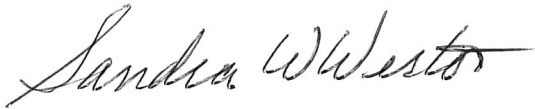
Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was moved to invoke the provisions of RSA 40:10 as to Article #18.

The motion passed by card vote.

**Article #19:** To transact any other business which may legally come before this meeting.

There being no further business to transact, upon motion made by Mary Bonser and seconded by Charlene Andersen, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra W. Weston". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sandra W. Weston, Town Clerk