

**Nottingham Select Board Meeting**

**12/28/20**

**Official Minutes as of 1/4/21**

**1 Call to Order**

2 Members Present: Chair Ben Bartlett, Vice Chair John Morin, Tiler Eaton, Tony Dumas, Donna  
3 Danis

4 Absent:

5 Others: Lorraine Petrini, Chris Sterndale, Steve Soreff, Kimberly Larkin, Mary Colvard, Dave  
6 Dearborn, Sandi Neff, Kip and Judy Baillargeon, Therese Thompson, ET Reed, Marguerite,  
7 Kim, Bill Jassmond, Pam Kelly, Tom Duffy, MJ, Natasha Vaillancourt, John Andrade, Carsten  
8 Boers

9 Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**10 Approve Manifests**

11 **Mr. Dumas made a motion to approve the accounts payable manifest of 12/28/20 and**  
12 **payroll manifest of 12/29/20. Ms. Danis seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.**

**13 Approve Minutes**

14 **Mr. Eaton made a motion to approve the public minutes from 11/23/20 as written. Mr.**  
15 **Morin seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.**

16 **Ms. Danis made a motion to approve the public minutes from 12/14/20 as written. Mr.**  
17 **Eaton seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.**

**18 BOS Reports from Assigned Boards/Committees**

*19 Budget Committee*

20 There is a meeting coming up tomorrow. Mr. Morin said the BC is happy with the BOS budget.  
21 The school budget has a higher increase than BOS.

*22 Planning Board*

23 There is still an opening on this board.

*24 CIP*

25 There was a meeting last week. There was no school participation. They went over the 6 years  
26 upcoming for the town.

*27 300<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee*

28 There is no update.

*29 Marston Property*

30 There is no update.

**31 Town Administrator Report**

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There was COVID-19 activity at the fire dept. They are down 2 call force people and one career fireman. They are doing okay. Ms. Danis said this does not leave our town in jeopardy; there is mutual aid. Mr. Sterndale said they haven't needed mutual aid but it is available if needed.

Lt. Woodman swearing in will be at 9am on Thursday. It's not a public event but the BOS is invited.

**Action Items from Last Meetings**

None listed.

**Assessing**

Avitar billed parcels that shouldn't have been (i.e. common areas) and had credits attached to others, they are all to be abated.

**Mr. Dumas made a motion to approve the abatements for the following:**

**Map 1 Lot 12**

**Map 54 Lot 8/F**

**Map 16 Lot 5**

**Map 23 Lot**

**Map 100 Lot 3**

**Map 24 Lot 31**

**Map 4 Lot 1**

**Map 1 Lot 99**

**Map 26 Lot 2**

**Map 71 Lot 118**

**Map 70 Lot 91**

**Map 72 Lot 30**

**Ms. Danis seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.**

There were also abatement applications due to ability to pay and elderly exceptions. It's an option in the law that the BOS can do something with these. Guidance is needed from BOS on how to deal with these abatements. They should be done in non-public. There are about 50-60 elderly exceptions that are given now. Ms. Danis would like to know how the town has handled it in the past and would like a standard on how to handle these. Mr. Morin said they have never dealt with this on the accessor's board. Mr. Dumas said they can approve up to a certain amount of value to be waived; is that the amount that is exempt. Mr. Sterndale confirmed they can

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change the amount that is exempt. Mr. Dumas would like to know the last time the amount that can be exempt was adjusted. Mr. Sterndale said it was done 4 years ago. Ms. Danis said they need to think about two things: the exemption and if it is at the right level, whether they would adjust if assessments went down and what to do with the specific cases they have now. Mr. Sterndale said they can revise the amounts up or down; the BOS would propose it at town meeting. Mr. Sterndale said the other taxpayers in town pay more in taxes to make up for the elderly/disabled and veteran tax credits. For the elderly exemption, a person has to qualify for this by making less than a certain amount. Hardship is when the person cannot pay the amount of taxes.

**General Business**

*Encumbrances*

Mr. Sterndale said the encumbrances are the contracts that they have entered into in 2020 that they won't complete the work in 2020. If they encumber the money, they will pay for the items in 2020 while the work will be complete in 2021. One such encumbrance is the topcoat for the paving they did this fall around Nottingham Lake. Another is work that is underway for engineering on Ledge Farm Road for reconstruction. Mr. Morin asked if there was an expiration date for the engineering work for Ledge Farm Road. Mr. Sterndale said it is probable.

**Ms. Danis made a motion to encumber 2020 operating budget for the following: Highway Engineering, CMA Engineers: \$9500 and Highway Paving, Advanced Excavation and Paving: \$119,559. Mr. Dumas seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.**

Ms. Danis confirmed with Mr. Sterndale that approving encumbrances assists with keeping the budget lower for the next year.

*2021 Warrant Preview*

The warrant articles will be operating budget for \$4,146,826, highway construction and reconstruction 300,000, highway vehicle capital reserve fund for \$100,000, fire vehicle capital reserve fund for \$100,000, revaluation capital reserve fund for \$20,000, invasive species ETF for \$10,000, 300<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration capital reserve fund for \$5000, purchase of dump truck for \$240,000, lease/purchase of bucket loader for \$181,000, renovation for community center kitchen for \$23,400, repair of roads in South Side cemetery for \$13,000, conversion of mezzanine at fire station to sleeping quarters for \$22,000, revising street names and numbers to comply with NH E-911 standards for \$10,000 and stormwater management plan for \$30,000 (which is a grant/loan forgiveness meaning it would not cost the town anything). The ambulance operation is self-funded with received fees for \$25,953.

The bucket loader would be a replacement. The excavator that the town has is in use. The grader is 15 years old and aging rapidly.

Ms. Kelly asked how will taxpayers be able to vote on amendments to a warrant article at deliberative session. Ms. Danis said it depends on the format of the deliberative session. Mr.

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100 Dumas said they are working on the options with zoom. It may be a webinar which will have a  
101 limited number of participants, and it can have a viewing audience of X number of people. They  
102 would need to increase the webinar participants to 5000 for registered voters. Registered voters  
103 could raise their hand, submit questions and vote yes/no. Mr. Sterndale said they can't vote via  
104 zoom. If there is a remote meeting, there is no way for voters to amend the warrant articles. Ms.  
105 Danis said the state has given some guidance and the BOS is waiting for the moderator to get  
106 back to them. Mr. Dumas said he is exploring the zoom aspect.

107 *Rte 4 Property*

108 Mr. Sterndale said there has been discussion about cell tower on Rte. 4 property regarding the  
109 commission structure and the sale of the land. The BOS will have a conversation with Norwood  
110 Group about selling the cell tower lease ahead of time or package the cell phone tower with the  
111 land. If it's broken apart, they may be worth more. There was discussion about the two options  
112 with the town attorney as well. Mr. Bartlett asked about the acreage of the cell tower. Mr.  
113 Sterndale said it's on a 50x50 spot and has a right of way. There are 3 parcels of land. The parcel  
114 the cell tower sits on is approximately 70 acres. The landlord has to provide access to the cell  
115 tower. There will be a non-public to discuss this next week.

116 **Review Action Items for Next Meeting**

117 Elderly and hardship exemption topics, bucket loader warrant article, kitchen community center  
118 renovation warrant article, Rte. 4 property (non-public)

119 **Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3 II (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and/or (l) if required.**

120 **Adjourn**

121 **Mr. Eaton made a motion to adjourn at 7:38pm. Mr. Morin seconded. Unanimously**  
122 **approved by a vote of 5-0.**

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