

**Nottingham Select Board Meeting
January 3, 2023, Meeting
Approved: January 16, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER 6:32 PM

Members Present: Chair Donna Danis, Tiler Eaton, Tony Dumas

Benjamin Bartlett arrived at 7:20 PM.

Others present: Interim Town Administrator John Scruton, Steve Soreff

The Chair opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Mr. Eaton made a motion to approve the minutes December 29, 2022.
Seconded by Mr. Dumas Passed 2-0-1.**

Revenue: The revenue is projected to be approximately \$100,000 in excess of amount used to set the tax rate (MS 434-R). John Scruton indicated he believed the actuals are the best numbers to use for 2023 revenue projection with some adjustment. He presented a proposed revenue for 2023 of \$2,295,791.16

**Mr. Dumas moved to accept the updated revenue projection of
\$2,295,791.16 to use for 2023 budget presentation. Second Mr. Eaton.
Passed 3-0**

Tax Cap: The increase in revenue projection of \$100,000 means the tax cap needs to be adjusted upward by \$25,000. The 12/5/2022 decision of the Board on the Cap used a projection at \$75,000.

**Mr. Dumas moved to increase the tax cap by \$25,000 in light of our
increased revenue projection to a new cap of \$4,842,866. Second Mr.
Eaton. Passed 3-0**

Emergency management has 11 lines previously \$1 but zero for 2023. Does the Board wish to put \$1 on each of those zero lines (245-250, 252-256)

**Mr. Dumas moved, Mr. Eaton seconded to put \$1 in each Emergency
Management line numbers 245-250 and 252-256 inclusive. Passed 3-0.**

The Town Administrator brought up the need to reduce the Select Board budget by \$8,099 to reach the cap. He noted an issue with the Library Salary whereas the accepted plan in 2022 to move a part time to full time was agreed upon, but failed to make the budget. This explains part of the salary line increase in Library.

The Board discussed where to make the remaining cuts to get to the cap. The Board discussed there will be vacancies and turnover which may result in some salary savings. Our historical record means this line could be reduced but raises still given. The Board wants to be sure that employees know the Board will support fairly compensating our employees.

Mr. Dumas moved to cut an additional \$8,099 out of the employee merit compensation, line 4. Mr. Eaton seconded. Passed 3-0.

The Interim Town Administrator reported about \$200,000 fund balance available per the Fund Balance policy. Over \$90,000 is in excess revenue projection over the amounts used to set the tax rate usage. \$100,000 was in excess of the target fund balance when the tax rate was set. There is also some in unexpended appropriations. In the light of that he suggested the following warrant articles.

- A. Warrant article to fix Veteran's Credit at current level of \$750.
- B. \$90,000: Article to raise and appropriate \$90,000 to be added to the Town Maintenance, Building and Repair expendable trust using Fund Balance.
(Established in 2014 "Such fund shall be used for maintenance, repair or replacement of Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC), Electrical, Plumbing or other major systems in Town buildings or facilities.")
- C. \$20,000 in an article to raise and appropriate \$20,000 to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund using fund balance
- D. \$90,000 article for engineering projects including culverts and the library parking lot using Fund Balance.
- E. \$6,000 article for improvements to the entrance area of the library including accessibility for ADA compliant door opening device.
- F. \$100,000 for the Fire Vehicle/SCBA Capital Reserve.
- G. \$100,000 for the Highway Truck Capital Reserve.
- H. \$400,000 for highway reconstruction and maintenance with a list of suggested roads before being finalized.
- I. \$10,000 for Invasive Species Prevention and Eradication Removal Expendable Trust Fund.
- J. \$40,000 to run the ambulance (out of Ambulance Special Revenue Fund.)

K. \$10,000: Establish and make initial deposit to Expendable Trust Fund for Police technical and IT projects.

Mr. Bartlett arrived at 7:20 PM. Ms. Danis reviewed what the Board had done and the Board returned to a discussion of the decision to reduce the Merit line. Ms. Danis said, “we are still going to take care of our employees.”

Mr. Soreff asked to remind the voters they have until January 10 to submit a petitioned warrant article.

Interim Town Administrator John Scruton reviewed the warrant articles.

Discussion ensued with Mr. Bartlett suggesting a reduction in the size of the Highway Truck Capital Reserve appropriation.

Ms. Danis indicated it should go to the voters to let them decide.

Mr. Dumas moved to accept the proposed warrant articles as listed in the Town Administrator’s report. Passed. 3-1 (Bartlett nay) Mr. Bartlett indicated his nay was about the Truck CR.

There was discussion that the Board has authority to expend from the Cable Franchise fee so the purchases to upgrade the meeting room within CIP will not have to be a budget article.

Mr. Dumas moved enter Nonpublic 91-A:3 ii a, b Second Eaton. Chair Donna Danis-Aye, Tiler Eaton-aye, Tony Dumas-aye, Ben Bartlett-aye. Passed 4-0 Roll Call.

Mr. Dumas moved to exit and seal at 7:54, Mr. Eaton Seconded. Chair Donna Danis-Aye, Tiler Eaton-aye, Tony Dumas-aye, Ben Bartlett-aye Passed 4-0 Roll Call Vote

Select Board Member Dumas , Select Board Member Eaton seconded to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 7:54PM. Passed 4-0.

*Respectfully submitted,
John Scruton, interim Town Administrator*