

Nottingham Select Board Workshop

12-21-21

Official Minutes as of 1-10-22

1 Call to Order

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

3 Absent: Ben Bartlett

4 Others: Jen Phillips

5 The Vice Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

6 2022 Proposed Budget

7 Mr. Morin said the purpose of this meeting was to go over the 2022 proposed budget and that is
8 all they will be discussing tonight.

9 Mr. Dumas wanted to preserve the fire department positions so that they can have 24-hour shifts.
10 Also he wanted to keep the rec/highway department proposed position. He suggested not doing
11 adding the lake host budget line this year but keep the warrant article for the lake host program.

12 Ms. Danis said she spoke to Dee Decker about the lake host program as a budget line. Ms. Danis
13 said that Ms. Decker was fine with the BOS not putting the lake host program as a separate line
14 item in the budget this year with the understanding that they will likely have to come before the
15 Board more frequently to ask for money from the monies collected from warrant articles. Mr.
16 Dumas said a warrant article will be put on the ballot for \$10k and they have \$8k left in the lake
17 host program budget. Ms. Danis said that would still fund the lake host program. The Board
18 agreed to drop the lake host line down to \$5k.

19 Mr. Dumas said they are 3 elections this year. He suggested taking out the ballot counting
20 machine. Mr. Morin had a question about the printing; perhaps they can save money there. Mr.
21 Dumas went over the budget for the printing line for the past few years. Mr. Morin suggested
22 reducing the line to \$5500. Mr. Dumas suggested \$5k. The Board changed the line to \$5500.

23 Mr. Morin asked about mapping in the budget and reducing that line. He suggested moving from
24 \$6k to \$5k. Line 79 will be reduced to \$5k.

25 Mr. Morin had a question about Line 85. Ms. Danis said that line depends on what employees
26 choose for health insurance. They can't mess with these lines unless they are reducing
27 employees. Mr. Eaton asked about Line 86. Mr. Dumas said he didn't adjust because he wanted
28 to keep that position. Ms. Danis said they could create 2 budgets: one with all the positions
29 requested and one without. Ms. Danis suggested for Planning Dues, Line 102, it be reduced to
30 \$1. Mr. Morin said he doesn't think they should reduce it as they need the dues and they have
31 been doing a lot of work in Planning lately. Mr. Dumas said he thought they should leave it.

32 Mr. Eaton wanted to change Line 122. Mr. Dumas went over what they spent for the past few
33 years. They reduced the line to \$1500.

34 Mr. Bartlett wants to cut Line 130. Mr. Dumas said that would be in line with what was spent in
35 the past couple of years. It was reduced to \$1500 from \$2000.

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12-21-21

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36 Mr. Dumas suggested Line 129 be decreased. It was decided to leave as is.

37 Line 131, Mr. Morin suggested cutting by \$500. Mr. Dumas suggested \$1k. It was decided to cut
38 to \$1k.

39 Line 134, Mr. Bartlett suggested cutting library maintenance. Ms. Phillips spoke about the
40 maintenance that needs to be done on the library. It was decided that they should leave it as is.

41 Mr. Bartlett wanted to cut Line _____. Mr. Dumas said they could drop to \$3k. It was decided to
42 leave as is.

43 Line 158, all members suggested making cuts. They made a \$1500 cut to \$7500.

44 Mr. Morin had no cuts on the police department lines. Ms. Danis said Line 186, she suggested
45 holding off on the digital sign. Ms. Danis said they don't have the specific cost. Mr. Dumas said
46 they are splitting it with EMS. They are going to get the final number.

47 Mr. Dumas said Line 163 hasn't been spent in the last 3 years. They could drop to \$1. Mr. Morin
48 and Ms. Danis are hesitant to make cuts to this line as it's insurance. Mr. Dumas suggested
49 cutting in half. They decided to leave as is.

50 Line 178, Mr. Dumas suggested taking \$600 out. They decided to leave as is.

51 Mr. Dumas proposed dropping Line ____ by \$2k in the police department.

52 Mr. Morin said they have always had a surplus. He said that line could be cut in half.

53 In the fire department, Line 206, they are dropping it by \$1k.

54 Line 218, Mr. Morin suggested cutting. Mr. Dumas suggested cutting this line as well. He said
55 the radios may not need that much maintenance. He suggested a \$3500 cut. Mr. Morin suggested
56 cutting by \$1k. They reduced the line to \$3500.

57 Line 217, Mr. Dumas suggested dropping to \$1500.

58 Line 215, Mr. Dumas suggested a decrease. There was an agreed upon cut in this line.

59 Mr. Dumas suggested a decrease by \$500 for Line 247. Mr. Morin spoke about the cost of the
60 sign. Ms. Danis asked if they are cutting this line but leaving money in the other line. Mr. Morin
61 said they will leave this line as is, but they may consider reducing it in the future.

62 Mr. Dumas said he would keep the shared position between rec/highway dept. Ms. Danis
63 suggested cutting it. Mr. Dumas said the rec/highway dept. did say could live without the
64 position for another year. Mr. Morin suggested cutting that position as well. It was decided to
65 cut this position.

66 Due to static, portions of this meeting cannot be heard.

67 There was discussion about Line 258. Mr. Morin spoke about contracted services for grading.

68 Mr. Dumas suggested dropping this line. Ms. Danis suggested having these departments come in

Nottingham Select Board Workshop

12-21-21

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69 to speak about these lines. Mr. Dumas suggested a \$7k cut and they will run it by Shawn
70 McLean. The Board concurred to reduce this line by \$7k.

71 Mr. Morin suggested cutting Line 266. Mr. Dumas suggested not cutting Line 265 and 266. Ms.
72 Danis said they could cut to whatever but if the highway dept. comes back to say they need
73 money, it will have to be found. They concurred dropping Line 266 by \$3k.

74 There was a discussion about cutting the engineering line. Mr. Eaton said they could use ARPA
75 money for some of that. Mr. Morin suggested taking \$5k off this line. The Board concurred. Ms.
76 Danis said they should ask Shawn McLean as well. Mr. Morin said they don't need engineering
77 costs for all the roads around the lake. Mr. Dumas said they have to use engineering for Highland
78 Ave. Mr. Morin said he wants to see the engineering spread out over 20 years.

79 Mr. Morin and Mr. Dumas suggested reducing Line _____. They decided to cut this line by \$1500.
80 Mr. Dumas went over the past few years' costs for Line 292.

81 Ms. Danis said that Mr. Bartlett wanted to cut a particular line. Mr. Dumas said that line is too
82 erratic to cut.

83 Mr. Dumas suggested Line 307 could be reduced. Ms. Danis said she did not agree.

84 There was discussion about social services. Ms. Danis said Mr. Bartlett suggested cutting this
85 section overall. Ms. Danis said they would have to figure out where to cut on each line.

86 Mr. Dumas said he did not want to cut Lines 333-334. Ms. Danis concurred. Mr. Morin said they
87 could reduce \$1k out of Line 334. He would like to know what tools they need. Mr. Dumas said
88 the scouts could help out. Ms. Danis said the rec. dept. would need to provide tools. Ms. Danis
89 said they could cut \$1k out of this line. BOS concurred that they will cut \$1k from this line. Mr.
90 Dumas said they could take \$1k out of the mowing line. The Board agreed.

91 Mr. Dumas suggested paying off debt.

92 Ms. Phillips spoke about upgrading the part-time position to full-time position at the library. Mr.
93 Eaton asked if that included benefits.

94 Household hazardous waste line was reduced.

95 Due to the static, Ms. Phillips was unheard. Mr. Dumas suggested cutting back \$2k on Line 346.
96 Ms. Danis reminded the Board this was a workshop session.

97 There was discussion about paying off a parcel of land and they would need Conservation
98 Commission's buy-in. Mr. Dumas said they could pay off debt in 6 lines.

99 Mr. Dumas said that with the changes they made, the increase to the budget would be 6.3%
100 instead of over 10%. Mr. Morin said that would be contingent on paying off town debt. Mr.
101 Dumas said they have received letters encouraging the BOS to reduce the taxes this year, but he
102 said this will be several years of savings due to not having to pay interest.

Nottingham Select Board Workshop

12-21-21

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103 Mr. Morin asked what the town surplus is and if they want to use some of that for tasers or
104 dashboard cameras for the police department. Ms. Danis said the BC was surprised that the
105 police department did not already have these.

106 **Adjourn**

107 **Mr. Dumas made a motion to adjourn at 8:50pm. Ms. Danis seconded. Unanimously**
108 **approved by a vote of 3-0.**

109