

**Minutes
Nottingham Selectmen's Meeting
January 26, 2015**

6:30 PM Chair Carpenter opened the meeting and asked all those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Mark Carpenter, Mary Bonser and Donna Danis

Others: Chris Sterndale – Town Administrator, Dawn Wirkkala – Secretary, Vytautas Kasinskas, Duane Hyde, Eugene Reed, Kristen Lamb, Raelene Shippee-Rice, Sam Demeritt, Cheryl Smith, Terry Bonser

MANIFEST SIGNATURE:

Motion: by Ms. Bonser, second by Ms. Danis to approve the January 26, 2015 manifest.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

OUTSTANDING MINUTES:

Motion: Ms. Danis, second Ms. Bonser to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2015 meeting as amended.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Town Administrator/Department Reports, Mail/Correspondence and Signature Items:

Town Offices: Mr. Sterndale reported the Town Offices and Library will be closed on Tuesday, January 27th because of the snow storm; Highway, Police and the Fire Department will be staffed. The Selectmen supported the early decision to close the Town Offices.

People interested in signing up for municipal positions can do so until Friday, January 31, 2015, from 3 pm to 5 pm.

Special Election: Mr. Sterndale reported we are still waiting on the official word about the dates for the special election for the NH Representative vacancy. Both a primary and single election will be held.

Discussion took place about the registration period for the special election and the information will be made available when it is received.

Police: Sergeant Spagna has been promoted to Lieutenant.

County Commissioner: County Commissioner Kevin Coyle stated he would be available to review the county budget and information with the Selectmen at a future meeting.

Board of Selectmen Department/Board/Committee Reports:

Budget Committee: Chair Carpenter stated the Selectmen were requested to review the gasoline accounts for possible decreases. The Selectmen were also requested to review alternate options on the method for getting the Fire Department a truck.

After discussion the Selectmen determined they were not in favor of reducing the amounts for gasoline any further than they already have been for any department, as fuel prices can be too volatile and it could be a big risk.

Mr. Sterndale reviewed he hasn't yet discussed the options of a used versus new truck and the cost to make the needed changes for the Fire Department. The CIP information about future highway vehicles indicates if a new truck is purchases, there may not be enough remaining funds for the other proposed vehicles.

After discussion the Selectmen decided to keep the warrant article requesting a new truck for the Fire Department as it was written. Ms. Danis requested the estimated cost of changing the highway vehicle to what is needed for the Fire Department to consider the possible budget changes, and the

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other Selectmen agreed. It was also agreed more details about the future needs of highway vehicles should be determined.

CIP Committee: Chair Carpenter reported the material was put together by Mr. Reed, but there are additional questions about some of the prior year information that is on the report. It appears there are previously suggested items and it is possible they should be removed. Mr. Sterndale would review the data, clean up the old data to remove what isn't necessary.

Mr. Sterndale reported the CIP Committee is advisory to the Selectmen and there is no information that will impact the budget for 2015; it is more for public presentation in the Town Report at this time.

Chair Carpenter requested to hold a group meeting between the CIP Committee members, School Board and Selectmen to wrap up the data and reports.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:00 pm: Vytautas Kasinskas Trustee of the Trust Fund Nominee: Mr. Sterndale introduced Mr. Kasinskas, who is the recommended nominee for the regular Trustee of the Trust Fund open position. Mr. Kasinskas reviewed his personal and work history, discussing his experience making him a good candidate to be a member on the Trustee of the Trust Fund. He graduated from Boston College in 1962, received his Masters in 1969, was in the military for six years, has worked in several schools for several years, as well as the Social Security Administration, and then stayed home to raise his children. He moved to East Kingston in 1985; serving on the Conservation Commission for 16 years, as health officer for 5 year, Cemetery Committee for 18 years, as well as a member of the Trustee of the Trust Fund for approximately 15 years. He has attended many Trustees of the Trust Funds conferences and understands a lot of the required duties.

The Selectmen thanked Mr. Kasinskas for volunteering to be on the Trustee of the Trust Fund.

Motion: by Ms. Bonser, second by Ms. Danis to appoint Vyautas Kasinskas to the Trustee of the Trust Fund.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

General Business:

Deputy Fire Warden Appointment: The Selectmen reviewed the form to appoint Zachary Gagnon as a Deputy Fire Warden.

Motion: by Chair Carpenter, second by Ms. Danis to appoint Zachary Gagnon as a Deputy Fire Warden for the Town of Nottingham.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Town Budget & Warrant Articles: Mr. Sterndale reviewed the notice from the Town Clerk to increase the amount of money she receives for fees by an additional \$0.50 per registration, which adds an additional \$3,300.00 to the Town Clerk Fees account.

Chair Carpenter reviewed that the total amount of the Operating Budget is \$3,582,150.00, an increase of 1.54% or \$54,384.00 over 2014.

Motion: by Ms. Bonser, second by Chair Carpenter to recommend article #3, the Operating Budget.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Motion: by Ms. Bonser, second by Ms. Danis to recommend articles #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, #13, #14, #15, #16, #17, and #18.

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Discussion took place to determine if the Selectmen had any questions or concerns about any of the Warrant Articles. Chair Carpenter asked if there would be changes for funding of Warrant Article #14 by the Conservation Commission.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

7:15 pm: Conservation Commission: Mr. Demeritt stated the Conservation Commission is looking to expend \$1,500.00 from the Conservation Fund to assist in acquiring an easement on the Harvey property. Mr. Hyde reviewed the data for the proposed easement. There are an approximate 1100 total acres in the easement in the Towns of Nottingham and Epping, with an approximate 220 acres in Nottingham. A walking tour of the property will take place on February 28, 2015.

The parcel could support as many as 50 home lots according to Mr. Hyde. Walking trails will be developed and has a great wildlife, which will be surveyed with the \$1,500.00. The current property owners will retain ownership and shall pay the property taxes, and SELT will hold the conservation easement giving the Town an executory authorization to enforce the easement. There has been a lot of success in receiving grant funding very quickly for the property, and a grant application with NH Fish and Game is being completed secure the remaining additional funding needed. SELT is required to seek additional partners in the grant process, and if the Town of Nottingham and Conservation Commission agree to contribute \$1,500.00 toward the wildlife study it makes them a partner in the process.

Chair Carpenter asked if Epping had a Conservation Fund. Mr. Hyde stated they do, but voted to stop contributions to the fund a few years ago, limiting the funds that are available, however, the Conservation Commission and Selectmen have written a warrant article seeking taxpayer support for the easement.

Mr. Hyde reported additional funds may be needed for some of the administrative expenses.

Mr. Sterndale asked about how this property connects to other easements to Pawtuckaway and the Great Bay. Mr. Hyde reviewed existing properties, and importance of this property linking the properties together; ultimately putting in trails traversing through all the properties between Pawtuckaway and the Great Bay. Mr. Sterndale reported participating in the wild life survey process can provide a lot of support to the process as SELT seeks the additional grants.

Ms. Lamb stated additional funds may be sought for the project in the future. Mr. Hyde stated they will seek additional funding from Nottingham in the future for this project; an estimated \$63,000.00 to help it the total \$3.1 million dollars needed.

Mr. Demeritt stated the property will also fit into the Nottingham Conservation Commissions Four General's Greenway project. The Commission continues to work on a map documenting how the Four General's Greenway properties connect.

Chair Carpenter asked about the other needed funding to continue this easement process. Ms. Lamb and Ms. Smith stated the Commission has plans to review the current list and length of time the Commission has spent working towards easements with existing plans for a possible shift of funding priorities or inclusion of other easements not previously considered.

Mr. Sterndale reported the public hearing has been scheduled for February 9th.

Mr. Hyde stated the property will have a formal survey, especially because there is some discrepancy with the total amount of Nottingham acres.

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The Selectmen offered their support for the project and would notify the Conservation Commission of any additional questions they might have and would see everyone on February 9th.

The Selectmen reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conservation Commission and Selectmen establishing how the Commission will move forward with determining projects they will commit funds to. Chair Carpenter stated the memorandum of understanding helps protect the town from potential legal action. Ms. Bonser wants to continue working closely together.

Ms. Lamb stated the Commission continues to discuss the support of the PLIA lake host program. The Selectmen thanked the members for attending.

7:30 pm: Gene Reed: Mr. Reed read into the record a letter he is presenting to the School Board expressing concerns about recent School Board decisions regarding elimination of Coe Brown tuition differential payments and refund of previously paid tuition differential.

Mr. Reed asserted \$30,000.00 has been documented, but it might be as much as \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 if you go back further to what remains uncollected from prior year tuition differential. Mr. Reed asked if the Selectmen have the authority to collect the debts if the School Board were to provide an accounting to the Selectmen.

After discussion the Selectmen agreed they should determine who has the authority to collect the funds. Mr. Reed requested to receive notice regarding the legal authority of the Selectmen.

Discussion also took place about what meeting or even if the Selectmen should discuss the tuition differential issues; should concerns be delivered to the School Board and/or at the Deliberative Session. Chair Carpenter and Ms. Danis agreed the topic should not be discussed until they determine if they have authority to take action on the issue.

Ms. Bonser recused herself from the Board to speak to the Board of Selectmen as a citizen/selectman and read her letter about her concerns of elimination of the differential tuition payment by parents with students attending Coe Brown High School, specifically detailing legislative information about the reasons for passage of HB1447 changing RSA 186:11 XXXIII.

Chair Carpenter stated he is concerned about the Selectmen's authority to take action regarding this process and recommended Ms. Bonser forward her concern to the School Board. Ms. Bonser states she is concerned the School Board will chose not to take action on her concerns.

Ms. Danis stated with all due respect to Ms. Bonser, the Selectmen need to seek whether they have authority to take action on the issue before they discuss the matter; her research indicates it is the responsibility of the School Board to deal with tuition issues.

Town Report Dedication: The Selectmen reviewed the list of nominees presented by Ms. Bonser and came up with a short list of people they would like to nominate for Town Report Dedication. Mr. Sterndale would review the names with each of the Selectmen on an individual basis to come up with the dedication result.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business,

8:23 PM Motion: by Chair Carpenter, second by Ms. Bonser to adjourn.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Wirkkala