

**Minutes
Nottingham Selectmen's Meeting
September 14, 2015**

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

Members Present: Mary Bonser, Donna Danis and Mark Carpenter

Others: Town Administrator Chris Sterndale, Secretary Dawn Calley-Murdough, John Morin, Gene Reed

MANIFEST SIGNATURE:

Motion: by Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Carpenter to approve the August 31, 2015 and September 14, 2015 accounts payable and the September 1, 2015 and September 15, 2015 payroll manifests.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

OUTSTANDING MINUTES:

Motion: Mr. Carpenter, second Ms. Danis to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2015 meeting as amended.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

SELECTMEN BOARD/COMMITTEE/LIASON REPORTS:

Planning Board: The Planning Board met last week and discussion took place about a lot line adjustment and the applicant was referred to the Zoning Board. The Board also reviewed information about their 2016 Budget, participation and attendance at the Nottingham Day Planning Board booth, attendance to the joint Planning Board meeting with the Town of Raymond, and reviewed the meeting dates change for November that will be on November 4th and November 18th because of the holidays.

The Board also presented the final draft zoning ordinance changes, which should help bring the zoning regulations in line with the subdivision regulations. Copies of the proposed ordinance changes are available at the Town Office and on the Town website. The hearing to adopt the new ordinances will be on Wednesday, September 23, 2015.

Budget Committee: Chair Bonser reported the 3rd quarter 2015 expenses and revenues were presented, stating Mr. Sterndale pointed out those accounts the committee might want to keep under review. Mr. Sterndale stated additional surprise revenues were received from FEMA from a prior year flood reimbursement in the amount of \$62,000.00; meaning unanticipated revenues are significantly higher than expected.

Chair Bonser reported unanticipated revenues will be returned to the General Fund.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR/DEPARTMENT REPORTS, MAIL & SIGN ITEMS:

Recreation: Nottingham Day is Saturday, September 19th with a lot of fun events for kids and adults. Special thanks were expressed to event sponsors Hillside Landscaping, Roland Sewer Services, and Trash Busters.

Mr. Carpenter asked to have the Recreation Director spread the word about sponsorship further out into the community.

Police: There were many calls received during the Labor Day weekend.

Fire: There were many calls received during the Labor Day weekend and the Fire Chief wanted to recognize the quick response received from Police Department Officers. The department also helped host Sarah's Ride, which is a charity motorcycle ride event that supports young women looking to experience fire fighting service offering scholarships to Camp Fully Involved.

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Code Enforcement: Mr. Sterndale reviewed there is a vacant/abandoned tax lien property that is physically dilapidated and concerns have been reported about the building being broken into by trespassers, and the Selectmen were asked to consider demolishing the building. Additional information will come to the Selectmen at the next meeting about the legal path needed to make a decision.

Garland Road Traffic: Mr. Sterndale reported he has had a hard time establishing how many larger trucks have been traveling Garland Road, based on the previous concern expressed by local residents. He has reached out to SRPC to complete a traffic study, but as a non-paying dues member it will be a specific cost to complete the study, which he is waiting to receive.

Handicap Door/Town Office Repairs: Mr. Sterndale reported installation should be completed late-October, but the electrical repair work should be completed first.

Library Trustee: Chair Bonser asked if the letter of service acknowledgement for Kathleen Matthews as a Library Trustee was completed and Ms. Danis read the letter into the record.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:00 pm: CIP Committee Review: Introductions were completed – Budget Committee Representative Gene Reed and Planning Board Representative John Morin. It was stated the Selectmen and the two representatives were the only members. Mr. Morin asked if a public citizen would be included. The Selectmen agreed they would be willing to consider a member of the general public for next year, but anyone could participate during the public meetings for this year. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a six-year schedule of projects required to be constructed or to purchase needed capital facilities and/or equipment consistent with the projected continued growth and development of the Town. The CIP report can help identify estimated project costs and funding sources, helping town management establish reasonable town budgets.

Mr. Sterndale reviewed information about the CIP and the additional data that would be made available to the CIP Committee as they make decisions to create the report. Mr. Carpenter praised Mr. Sterndale for the work he completed in creating a wonderful packet of information for the committee. Mr. Sterndale stated the proposed number highway vehicles may cause bigger budget concerns as the purchases could start in 2017, in addition to a requested fire truck.

Discussion took place about population growth, along with the current number of proposed subdivisions taking place in town, the improving economy and lower interest rates which could cause Nottingham to see a significant amount of population growth over the next several years. The members agreed population growth would be included, but would be weighted because the future can be unpredictable. It was stated general population has some affect on the CIP, but the issues regarding the aging population impacts more of the general budget and less of the CIP. The members agreed that the CIP should look at the services needed for all ages. It was also stated as the CIP committee reviews school aged population, the number will vary from what is estimated and the projected costs are established using the current levels of services; it is difficult to project future school services.

Mr. Reed asked why the School Board wasn't participating in the general CIP process. It was stated an invitation was sent but they responded they would be completing their own, providing their results when they are complete. It was stated the statutes do not require them to participate in the town CIP process.

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General discussion took place about possible school age populations and how it might affect school needs and the wish that the School Board would participate together as a group.

Mr. Carpenter stated the School Board has made their decision on the matter. Mr. Carpenter asked for the Town CIP committee to focus on Town related issues and not get caught up in trying to address school related issues. The Town can provide their findings to the School Board for their use if they want it and ask for them to reciprocate, but town work needs to move forward. The school and town information can be joined together at a later date for possible group discussion.

Chair Bonser felt school participation was needed because the town and school budget are part of the same process; taxes pay for all services.

Mr. Reed and Ms. Danis were in agreement to the plan. Chair Bonser expressed her concern about the school budget being a significant part of the whole, with large financial expenses compared to the town and trying to set up a schedule for the town without knowing what the school is going to do.

Mr. Sterndale reviewed the departments and building items that might be considered a higher priority. The list included the remaining Community Center roof replacement, HVAC system and addressing the back of the building, Gravel Pit life expectancy, Recycling Center building and property, septic capacity concerns with more frequent use of the Old Town Hall, road qualities of the Town Cemeteries and possible capacity expansion, cisterns and hydrants repair and/or replacement in the 1980 housing developments, and continuing highway vehicle and regular road repair work.

Discussion took place about the unused back section of the Community Center, the existing structural plan from 2013, no current existing need to use the space, and the consideration of demolition and reconstruction of a specific plan spaced due to what could be a less expensive option instead of trying to repair/renovate the existing space. Mr. Carpenter recommended moving the main electrical panel from the back unused portion of the building to the front of the building. Mr. Sterndale reported he has requested and is waiting to receive some initial cost amounts on that move already.

Mr. Sterndale reported IT/computer equipment still needs to be replaced, but it is slowly being removed from the CIP because costs continue to fall on a yearly basis and replacement of equipment is included in regular department annual budgets.

General discussion took place about the proposed plan for the committee and decision making. Mr. Carpenter stated he wanted the group to hear more about road planning and concerns, and the group wanted to meet with those departments with more expensive requests – Highway and Fire. It was decided to hold off on discussion on Recreation related items and Marston property development due to a lack of available information.

A meeting will be scheduled soon for the CIP Committee to meet with the Fire and Highway departments as these are the two that can impact planning the most.

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GENERAL BUSINESS:

The Selectmen reviewed an email received from the City of Dover asking Nottingham to support their recent lawsuit against the State of NH regarding the cap on funding Adequate Education Grants for certain communities. New Hampshire distributes education aid on a per student basis, with a standard rate of \$3,450.00 and up to \$5,600.00 when additional aid is included for special education, poor and non-english speaking students and it is the State School portion of each property tax bill. By law, distribution of grants funds intended to ensure no school district would receive less money than they did the year before, capping the increase at 108%. However, school enrollments have changed, grant amounts haven't and some schools receive more funding under the per-pupil formula and faster growing towns receive less state aid than they are due because of the cap.

Chair Bonser stated the City of Dover is requesting support in the form of adopting and sharing a resolution to support eliminating the State of NH cap on funding Adequate Education Grants. Chair Bonser expressed her concern about the issue because of recent School Board decisions, and at their last meeting stated they would create a task group to review how the grant funds are actually being spent. The NH Department of Education appears to be confused about the many and confusing laws about education and it may take a decision from the courts to determine better answer.

Mr. Carpenter asked for further information and details about the process from the SAU but due to timing would support the request. Ms. Danis asked for further information and details about the process before making a decision to support the City of Dover. Mr. Carpenter stated he understands with offering general support on the matter, given that the spreadsheet indicates Nottingham could have received an additional \$619,154.00 between 2012 and 2016, if there was no cap and would this be part of the reason why the School Board made the recent decision regarding tuition and would like additional clarification before making a decision.

Motion: by Chair Bonser, second by Mr. Carpenter to support the actions of the City of Dover in suing the State over school funding. The statute at issue in the suit places an unconstitutional cap on education adequacy aid that deprives growing communities of their full payment for education adequacy. The cap is arbitrary and unconstitutional. Its effect is to down shift costs from the State to local taxpayers. We urge the State to quickly resolve the suit by agreeing that the cap is unconstitutional and removing it, beginning with the adequacy payment due to schools on September 1st.

Vote: 2 in favor, 1 opposed – Ms. Danis

Ms. Danis stated she does not have enough information about the process and what is needed by/for the school, and feels further details from the SAU should be received before a decision is made.

Mr. Carpenter stated he approves of the statement, but is also very interested in hearing further information from the SAU.

Recreation Revolving Committee: Chair Bonser reviewed the proposed information for the committee, including members of the committee and the tasks the Selectmen would like them to complete.

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Motion: by Mr. Carpenter, second by Ms. Danis to appoint the following to an ad hoc committee on the Recreation Revolving Fund: Skip Seaverns, Bill Garnett, Andrew Martin, Dee Decker, and Brian Dobson.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Legislative Law Requests: Mr. Sterndale reported Representative Spillane submitted legislation regarding changes being made to petition warrant articles during the deliberative session and Town Meeting. Representative Dean-Bailey submitted legislation on undeclared registered voters receiving the ability to become ballot clerks.

The Representatives have been invited to the Selectmen September 21, 2015 meeting, but as there will not be a meeting quorum that request will be cancelled and the bills will be watched for future Selectmen notification and possible participation.

Future Meeting Schedule: Mr. Sterndale reviewed and reminded the Selectmen of the upcoming tasks they will need to complete. The list included the CIP, town and department budgets, parking ordinance hearing, pole licensing hearing, in addition to regular tasks.

Mendums Pond Dam Repair: Mr. Sterndale reported the latest communication indicated NHDES is on track with necessary work.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: The Board entered non-public under RSA 91-A:3 II(a) & (e).

7:52 PM Motion: by Chair Bonser, second by Ms. Danis to enter non-public under RSA 91-A:3 II(a) & (e).

Roll Call Vote: Bonser – Yea, Carpenter – Yea, Danis – Yea. 3 – 0 in favor.

8:19 PM Motion: Mr. Carpenter, second by Ms. Danis to exit the non-public session.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Motion: Mr. Carpenter, second by Ms. Danis to seal the non-public minutes of September 14, 2015.

Roll Call Vote: Bonser – Yea, Carpenter – Yea, Danis – Yea. 3 – 0 in favor.

The Selectmen made no decisions during their non-public session.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business,

8:20 PM Motion: by Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Carpenter to adjourn.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Calley-Murdough