

Minutes
Nottingham Select Board Meeting
October 17, 2016

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

Members Present: Donna Danis, Tiler Eaton, Charlene Andersen

Others: Town Administrator Chris Sterndale, Secretary Dawn Calley-Murdough,

Approval of Manifest:

Motion: by Ms. Andersen, second by Mr. Eaton to approve the October 10, 2016 accounts payable and October 11, 2016 payroll manifests.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: by Ms. Andersen, second by Mr. Eaton to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2016 meeting as amended.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

The Select Board deferred approval of the October 3, 2016 non-public minutes.

Select Board Department/Board/Committee Reports:

Budget: Mr. Eaton reported the committee will meet this Thursday, October 20, 2016.

Planning: Ms. Andersen reported the Planning Board reviewed proposed changes to the lighting ordinance, their 2017 budget, started review on proposed changes to the accessory dwelling unit ordinance, created a sub-committee for proposed changes to the lighting ordinance, and the board decided they would review and clarify the definition of setbacks. The definition changes will clarify the information. The Planning Board also held a joint meeting with the Conservation Commission and the Zoning Board.

Ms. Andersen reported the updates to the Impact Fee program will be reviewed at an upcoming meeting.

CIP: Chair Danis reported the committee hopes to meet next week and will continue work to modify the CIP reports to include additional information and make it easier to determine the potential tax impacts and for people to read.

Town Administrator Reports, Mail, Signature Items:

Town Offices: The new exercise trail created by Zach Fraser for his Eagle Scout Badge will be finished soon and he will hold a grand opening ceremony. Ms. Andersen asked about the on going maintenance expenses. Mr. Sterndale reported any potential repairs should be low cost if it is ever needed; the town never maintained the trail in the past.

There will be a sign placed at the end of the trail to identify the end; which is on town property.

Hazard Mitigation Plan: The report needs to be updated soon, a grant should be available, and a small sub-committee will need to be created to complete those updates. One member from the Planning Board has been appointed and one Select Board member is needed; Ms. Andersen volunteered.

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Signature Items: The Select Board signed merit pay increases for employees, hiring paperwork for the new police officer, posting warrant for the polling place, a letter to employees regarding the personnel policy, and the purchase sale/deed for the sale of town owned property on Rogier that received an accepted bid.

Appointments:

7:00 pm – Democratic State Rep. Candidates Hal Rafter and Tom St. Martin: It was reviewed that Nottingham is part of two Representative districts, with four total representative seats.

Hal Rafter: Mr. Rafter introduced himself, a Nottingham resident, and a former Nottingham Selectman and School Board member who felt he was able to put aside politics and work with his fellow members even when there were disagreements, and he would continue to do so if elected as a Representative. He will work hard to try and find solutions to the opioid epidemic. He will also work toward finding ways to increase state funding to previously reduced areas of mandated funding, such as police and fire retirement. He would also like to actively work toward solutions that might help with water withdrawal situations.

Chair Danis asked how Mr. Rafter would increase mandated funding for towns. Mr. Rafter stated he does not have a specific answer but the state should try to find methods to increase their revenue; there should not be a continued reliance on only increasing property taxes. The state does have taxes for interest and dividends, estate, and meals and rooms; just not any other broad based state wide tax.

Chair Danis asked if Mr. Rafter has followed decisions made by DES with the release pulses for the Lamprey River and decisions to lower Pawtuckaway Lake water levels; and encouraged both members if elected to actively monitor and keep up to date with the PLIA. Chair Danis also encouraged contact PLIA about milfoil contamination at Pawtuckaway Lake.

Tom St. Martin: Mr. St. Martin introduced himself as a Candia resident. Mr. St. Martin stated he is dedicated to maintaining the US and NH Constitution, is a Veteran, and does have prior experience as a State Rep in 1993 and 1994. He is a local native, familiar with Nottingham, and will take a more active part in keeping up to date with local information, making himself more available to local municipal officials. He is concerned about the opioid epidemic, the effect on families, schools, and local law enforcement. As a prior member of the Municipal and County Government legislative committee member he will encourage Selectmen to utilize State Reps as active resources.

Chair Danis asked what Mr. St. Martin would do for local law enforcement with the impact of the opioid crisis. Mr. St. Martin stated he was struck by the knowledge of law enforcement and their understanding that the state cannot arrest their way out of the problem; but is especially interested in expanding on recovery, treatment and education program created by New Futures, which relies less on law enforcement and more on education. Increasing the number of treatment centers, working with insurance companies to offer alternatives to opioids for pain management, increased education and help with students and their parents, and finding the funding to create more spaces will be complicated. NH currently has an Alcohol Fund that was to take 5% of alcohol sales to fund treatment, but the legislature has never really allowed usage of 5% of the revenue to be used for treatment.

Mr. St. Martin reminded voters that voting for Nottingham residents will change locations to the Nottingham School for the Presidential and NH elections.

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Chair Danis recommended participation with local Pawtuckaway Lake groups in regards to finding methods to protect the lake, both agreed it would be a good idea and were told of an upcoming PLIA meeting.

General Business:

Intro to Tax Rate Setting: Mr. Sterndale reviewed the process the town will go through when it is time to set the tax rate. The NH Department of Revenue Administration is the state agency authorized to set the tax rate.

The town and school appear to have all the required information submitted to the NH DRA, and once the NH DRA has completed a satisfactory review they will notify the town of the estimated tax rate offering the Select Board the opportunity to use some of the town surplus to help off set the tax rate amount and change the amount set aside for overlay (reimbursement for abated property taxes). Once the Select Board makes a decision on the overlay amount and whether or not to use any unspent fund balance, the final tax rate is set the Select Board will sign off on the necessary paperwork.

The Select Board reviewed the tax rate calculation method, how budget and revenue amounts are utilized in the calculations, reviewed the school budget and revenue information, as well as the county amounts.

Mr. Sterndale asked the Select Board to review the proposed amounts to try and decide if they want to consider changes to the overlay amount and if they want to use any of the unspent fund balance to reduce the tax rate.

Veterans' Tax Credit: Mr. Sterndale reviewed the law changed for RSA 72:28, which has a new optional opportunity for municipalities; to change the tax credit from only those who have served in a qualifying war to all veterans that meet the specified service lengths and discharge status.

The Select Board would provide their opinion about offering this option to the community to the Town Administrator. If support is received by the Select Board a warrant article can be drafted.

Election Day: Chair Danis reminded voters the Presidential and State Elections on November 8th will take place at the Nottingham School.

Mr. Eaton stated he would attend the election all day. Chair Danis reported she will attend from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Ms. Andersen stated she would attend from 3:00 pm to the end of the day.

Chair Danis asked citizens to consider the impact of unreal/fake write-in votes on election workers, as each write in vote must be counted by hand.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: The Board entered non-public under RSA 91-A:3 II(a-employee dismissal/promotion/compensation)/(d-property purchase, sale benefit)/(e-legal).

7:42 PM Motion: Motion by Ms. Andersen, second by Mr. Eaton to enter non-public under RSA 91-A:3 II(a), (d) and (e).

Vote: Danis – Yea, Eaton – Yea, Andersen – Yea. 3 – 0 in favor.

8:26 PM Motion: Ms. Andersen, second by Mr. Eaton to exit the non-public session.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Motion: Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Eaton to seal the non-public minutes of October 17, 2016.

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Roll Call Vote: Danis – Yea, Eaton – Yea, Andersen – Yea. 3 – 0 in favor.

The Selectmen made no decisions during their nonpublic session.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business,

8:27 PM Motion: by Mr. Eaton, second by Ms. Andersen to adjourn.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Calley-Murdough