

**Minutes
Nottingham Selectmen's Meeting
January 12, 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, Chief Jaye Vilchock, Zachary Gagnon, Sandra Vilchock, Sam Demeritt

MANIFEST SIGNATURE:

Motion: by Ms. Bonser, second by Ms. Danis to approve the January 12, 2015 manifest.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

OUTSTANDING MINUTES:

Motion: Ms. Danis, second Chair Carpenter to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2014 meeting as amended.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Motion: Ms. Danis, second by Ms. Bonser to approve the minutes of the December 29, 2014 meeting as amended.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

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

Highway: Mr. Sterndale reported the department had an accident with one of the older plow trucks on Stevens Hill Road; no one was hurt and Mr. Sterndale is waiting for the accident report.

Police: Officer Sardinha is headed to the Police Academy.

Recycle Center: Painting of the interior of the recycling building has been completed.

Election Open Position Registration: Mr. Sterndale reviewed the Town positions that will be on the March 2015 ballot. Citizens can sign up, declaring their candidacy, for specific boards and/or committees during the Town Clerk's open hours from January 21, 2015 to January 30, 2015.

NH Representative: Mr. Sterndale reported he received information about the resignation of Representative Dobson, a Nottingham NH House Representative. The NH Governor and Council is responsible for scheduling a special election; both a primary and regular election will be needed. The Selectmen agreed they would not take any action until official word regarding the resignation was received.

Board of Selectmen Department/Board/Committee Reports:

MPEC: Ms. Danis stated the committee is trying to determine the best method to move the planning and development phase forward. MPEC members will meet with the School Board during a regular School Board meeting, MPEC will have their own meeting after they attend a School Board meeting.

Ms. Danis reviewed some of the options presented in the UNH field study. The Selectmen agreed the study could be used to help with the official planning and engineering phase.

Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association/NHDES Meeting: Ms. Bonser stated the PLIA and NH Department of Environmental Services are scheduling a spring meeting for early May 2015. The date is yet to be determined.

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APPOINTMENTS:

7:00 pm: Fire Department/Chief Vilchock: Chief Vilchock reported that Mr. Zachary Gagnon has completed all his necessary testing and now has been hired to fill the last vacant fire fighter position within the department.

Chief Vilchock reported that Mr. James Calderone, Mr. Chris D'Eon and Mr. Zachary Gagnon provided additional assistance to the department on after hour emergency calls during the Thanksgiving holiday. Ms. Bonser recommended official acknowledgement of the additional service be included in their personnel files; Chief Vilchock requested letters come from the Selectmen.

Chair Carpenter acknowledged the efforts of Chief Vilchock over the last few years in trying to keep the department fully staffed and selecting well qualified candidates. Ms. Bonser recommended official acknowledgement of the Chiefs service for his personnel file.

Ms. Danis reviewed the concern about emergency personnel being able to find the right address on some Nottingham Emergency Lanes. Chief Vilchock explained the lack of signage with house numbers, rather than family names, makes it very difficult and confusing for emergency personnel to locate a resident during an emergency situation. Chief Vilchock reported the first step is coming up with a list of roads where the issue is particularly troublesome. Chief Vilchock and Ms. Danis agreed that the home owners and Fire Department should work together on the best solution, perhaps through the PLIA in the Pawtuckaway Lake area. Chair Carpenter noted that we should be evaluating this issue throughout the Town, not just the Pawtuckaway Lake area.

The Selectmen signed the appointment form for Chief Vilchock.

General Business:

Deed Waivers: Chair Carpenter reviewed the list of properties that need a deed waiver.

Ms. Bonser recused herself from the vote regarding properties located within Cedar Waters.

Motion: Chair Carpenter, second by Ms. Danis to move that the Board of Selectmen waive the deeds and notify the Tax Collector that they will not accept the Tax Collector's deeds on the following properties, pursuant to NH RSA 80:38: Map 23 Lot 2 Suffix 18, Map 23 Lot 2 Suffix 143, and Map 23 Lot 2 Suffix 100.

Ms. Bonser reviewed that the privately owned properties located at Cedar Waters, are uninhabitable buildings only within Cedar Waters and are more of a liability for the Town to take the deed.

Vote: 2 – 0 in favor.

Motion: Chair Carpenter, second by Ms. Bonser to move that the Board of Selectmen waive the deeds and notify the Tax Collector that they will not accept the Tax Collector's deeds on the following properties, pursuant to NH RSA 80:38: Map 1 Lot 2, Map 1 Lot 3, Map 3 Lot 10, Map 3 Lot 11 Suffix 6, Map 42 Lot 15, Map 16 Lot 18 Suffix 3, Map 24 Lot 141 Suffix 2, Map 37 Lot 15, Map 8 Lot 13, Map 3 Lot 9 Map 3 Lot 6, Map 61 Lot 13, Map 46 Lot 6, Map 15 Lot 9, Map 43 Lot 21, Map 24 Lot 89, and Map 13 Lot 12.

Mr. Sterndale reviewed the request and reasons for the waivers.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Mr. Sterndale reviewed the list of properties the Selectmen may consider deeding. Property owners have toward the end of January 2015 to make payment on property taxes before the tax deed takes place.

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Warrant Article Review: Mr. Sterndale reviewed the 2015 draft warrant and currently proposed warrant articles.

Article #4 is to replacement the roof over the Municipal Office Gym and Kitchen areas, the amount isn't included as additional estimates are coming soon.

Article #13 for Social Services support has been reviewed with the Welfare Director to make sure the social service agencies receiving funds have provide assistance to Nottingham residents. Agencies submitted requests to the Town during the 2014 year requesting a specific amount of support, which may have been adjusted.

Mr. Sterndale reviewed Police Chief Foss and Detective Oberlin offered further support of increased funds for Child Advocacy Center; the agency provides significant help in abuse cases. Chair Carpenter asked about a double entry for Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS). Mr. Sterndale reported a merger is taking place between SASS and A Safe Place, and the amounts requested are based on a need for each agency's separate need.

Ms. Danis stated the dollar impact warrant articles that aren't typically seen by residents, are for the Fire Department truck and the roof.

Chair Carpenter asked if there was a method to indicate the general fund should receive more incoming revenue with the requested change to the Cable Franchise Fund warrant article. Mr. Sterndale reported verbal explanation could be provided during Town Meeting.

Mr. Sterndale stated the Selectmen currently have the ability to sell Town owned property but it limits the methods to a sealed bid or auction sale only, they do not have the ability to sell property by private sale if they so choose. The additional language included in warrant article #17 gives the Selectmen more flexibility in the process.

Mr. Sterndale reviewed warrant article #18 for the recommend change to eliminate sending out both an old and new property record card when property values have changed for the 2015 revaluation. Notice of new property values will be mailed to every property owner by the assessing company, and the old value can be reviewed on-line with the new mapping software system or by coming into the Town Office.

The Selectmen reviewed the draft tax impact and requested to see a comparison between the prior year and the proposed tax rate.

Mr. Sterndale reviewed the minor changes to the budget since the Selectmen completed their last review. Some of the 2015 budgeted amounts were reduced with purchases made during the 2014 year and some amounts have been increased to include newly determined changes; specifically Election account.

The Selectmen acknowledged that Mr. Sterndale has done a great job putting together the 2015 budget.

Mr. Sterndale reviewed the 2015 Estimated Revenues, stating the amounts are expected to be lower. Chair Carpenter asked about Recycling Revenue. Mr. Sterndale stated the amount is included in the DRA identified "other" category, as they have a different reporting method, and he has the expectation recycling revenues will be less for 2015.

Video Streaming: Mr. Sterndale reviewed the pricing options for video streaming, including the need to purchase additional equipment with estimated totals of \$3,000.00 or more. The Selectmen agreed they would not seek to stream meeting video online at this time.

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Trustee of the Trust Funds: Mr. Sterndale stated he is waiting for the volunteer application before inviting the recommended person to meet with the Selectmen and appointment to the committee.

School Warrant Article: Ms. Bonser reviewed her concern about the statute language, RSA 186:11, XXXIII, as recently amended, and the School Board decision to eliminate the differential payments for students who attend Coe Brown High School, based on that language. Also, Ms. Bonser stated that the statute is so poorly constructed that she does not believe the statute actually gives the authority to the School Board to establish any school as a school of record; it appears to be a very costly decision to make with very little support being provided to the public to back up their decision.

Chair Carpenter stated he is also uncomfortable with the amount of detail being provided by the School Board to document their reason for the change, especially when the Town has made a big effort to be very transparent with their budget changes. Chair Carpenter stated he has confidence in the Budget Committee members, as well as the School Board Members, but would like to see more details.

Chair Carpenter and Ms. Bonser agreed to the idea of the Selectmen possibly offering a public opinion on the matter.

Future Considerations: Ms. Bonser reviewed information she has found on population changes in New Hampshire, specifically that the average age is getting older and reviewed it might affect the type of services the municipality should offer in the future. The proposed number of retirements, population aging changes, and overall population changes can cause concern with limiting potential incomes and a possible loss of ability to pay property taxes with more limited incomes.

Ms. Bonser stated consideration of corrective actions should be taking place now to try and reduce potential possible future consequences to municipalities, and the state overall.

Chair Carpenter asked if there was a recommendation on how to make changes to assist with the possible future concerns. Ms. Bonser stated the Selectmen can start to consider changes for services that could be made to assist the aging population.

Chair Carpenter suggested utilizing the experiences of the aging population to educate younger generations and would review the information to determine a possible future action.

Ms. Danis stated she is curious to see if there are other municipalities also reviewing and considering options regarding this issue.

Conservation Commission: Mr. Demeritt stated the Conservation Commission met with some landowners regarding a new easement project to expand the Four Generals Greenway and asked to meet with the Selectmen to consider financing a survey and supporting the project.

Ms. Bonser asked how quickly a decision needs to be made. Mr. Demeritt asked to discuss the issue at the next Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Demeritt stated the Commission voted to supply \$1,500.00 to complete the survey and are seeking Selectmen approval before a public hearing is held.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business,

8:28 PM Motion: by Ms. Bonser, second by Ms. Danis to adjourn.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Wirkkala