



In the Town Hall Board of Select Office

Nottingham Board of Selectmen Meeting January 3, 2023.

Steve Soreff, MD

Following an unusually warm and very rainy early winter day, the Nottingham Board of Selectmen (BOS) met Monday at 6:30 PM on January 3, 2023, in the Community Center. The COVID Nottingham: 10 new cases last 14 days; 1210 total (2) as of January 2, 2023. Present were 4 members of the Board, Ben Bartlett, Donna Danis, Tiler Eaton, and Tony Dumas as well as the Interim Town Administrator (ITA), John Scruton.

After the Pledge, the BOS approved the December 29, 2022 minutes. With that done, it turned its attention to the Town Budget (TB). The ITA reported the revenue is projected to be approximately \$100,000 in excess of the amount used to set the tax rate. The BOS's decision on December 5, 2022, on the Tax Cap was the tentative increase projected at \$75,000. The BOS voted to apply the now extra \$25,000 to the revenue projection to \$4, 842,866. Although confusing, the new numbers translated into the BOS had only to reduce the TB by \$8,088. Again, it is still painful for the BOS but better than before as so much had been cut already.

The BOS looked at several ways to reduce that amount. It finally decided to cut the Merit Pay Line Item # 4 by \$8,000. It justified this reduction because there were a number of town positions vacant, in the past that item was not fully utilized, and new employers would not qualify for it in the coming next year. The BOS stressed town employees would get their full and desired compensations and would "be cared for" The ITA reported that the available Fund Balance (FB) is projected at approximately \$200,000. Also, the ARPA balance is \$309,000 and the Excess Highway Grant funds are \$129,776. These sums of money could be applied to later noted expenses.

He then outlined the 2023 Warrant Articles (WTs). A. Warrant article to fix Veteran's Credit at \$750. B, \$90,000: B. Article to raise and appropriate \$90,000 to be added to the Town Maintenance, Building and Repair expendable trust using Fund Balance. (Established in 2014 "Such fund shall be used for maintenance, repair or replacement of Heating, Ventilation & Air

Conditioning (HVAC), Electrical, Plumbing or other major systems in Town buildings or facilities.” Balance \$37,000). C. \$20,000 article to raise and appropriate \$20,000 to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund using FB. D. \$90,000 article for engineering projects including culverts and the library parking lot using FB.

E, \$6,000 article for improvements to the entrance area of the library including accessibility for ADA-compliant door open ADA-compliant. F. \$100,000 for the Fire Vehicle/SCBA Capital Reserve .G. \$100,000 for the Highway Truck Capital Reserve. H. \$400,000 for highway reconstruction and maintenance. This would appear with a list of roads to be worked on. I. \$10,000 for Invasive Species Prevention and Eradication Removal Expendable Trust Fund. J. \$40,000 to run the ambulance (out of Ambulance Special Revenue Fund.) K. \$10,000: Establish and make the initial deposit to Expendable Trust Fund for Police technical and IT projects. The BOS approved these WAs by a vote of 3 to 1. And it wanted citizens to know the deadline for [citizen petition WAs is January 10, 2023.](#)



Scruton continued. ARPA funds would cover the new backhoe and the Recycling Center’s Tire Cover and the Excess Highway Grant funds would provide for the new utility truck. He listed Town Office repairs as follows: broken wastewater pipes, clogging frequently replace (\$30,000-\$50,000) Involves digging up the floor from the police station, all bathrooms, halls and perhaps digging up part of the kitchen floor. 2 Pressure Tanks (excessive pump running and premature burnout) \$5,800, underground Oil Tank (long overdue for closure, high risk leaking & very large environmental costs). (Removal estimated at \$15,000) replacement above-ground 2 tanks 330 gallons and piping estimated \$7,500) NOT INCLUDING small shed to secure and reduce extreme low temperatures. Closure cost could be far higher if there are leaks, but preliminary tests indicate no leak, Water Quality (hydrogen sulfide, smell) two tanks for removal of gas, est. \$9,800, Gym floor cracks could expose asbestos, need replace/recover new floor, outside lighting front and side near cruisers. These could be covered by the Fund Balance. He added upgrade equipment in Conference Room 1, The Town Meeting in 2011 WA # 11, established a revolving fund, and granted the Select Board authority to expend the cable franchise fee without going to Town Meeting. The BOS approved the upgrade.

The BOS also disagreed with the Budget Committee cut in the Recreation Maintenance Program. The BOS then went into a Non-public session. The BC will hold a [Public Hearing](#) on the 2023 TB on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 7 PM at the Town Hall.