



Nottingham Board of Selectmen Meeting December 12, 2022.

Steve Soreff, MD

Following a cold but sunny and just after the first snowfall of the season,, the Nottingham Board of Selectmen (BOS) met Monday at 6:30 PM on December 12, 2022, in the Community Center. ays; 1196 total (0 new) as of December 9, 2022. Present were all 5 members of the Board, Ben Bartlett, Donna Danis, Tony Dumas, Tiler Eaton, and John Morin, as well as the Interim Town Administrator (IAT), John Scruton. Also, there was Dee Decker, Chair Supervisor of the Checklist, , Ruth Anne Fuller, Supervisor, and this reporter. The minutes were being taken remotely.

After the Pledge, the BOS approved manifests 12/12 and 12/13 and minutes 11/28 and 12/5. For committees, Budget will meet this Thursday and every week thereafter, Planning will meet Wednesday, and CIP will meet Thursday. For Assessing, BOS approved one Intent to Cut.

Next Interim Town Administrator (IAT), John Scruton offered a report. BOS approved about \$42,000 to pay for the culvert on Birch Street from [ARPA](#) funds. After some clarification, it was discovered Bobcat at the Recycling Center is back in operation. The rented one costs \$3,000 a month. At the recommendation of the town's Auditing company, the BOS approved a Fund Balance policy and Investment policy. He noted the Fund Balance was \$100,000 "over the target". Danis will write the BOS piece for Annual Report. It will emphasize the challenges of a 4% tax cap in the face of inflation, supply chain issues, and difficulty in personnel recruitment. The BOS voted to incumbent funds for the new police cruiser and the second ambulance. Both have been ordered but have not been delivered.

He reported concerns about the single oil tank buried under the Town Hall. It is being considered to fill it with sand and instead replace it with two 330-gallon tanks located outside the building. As Dumas recognized, these tanks will be protected by cement walls. The tax bills will be in the mail Tuesday, December 13, 2022, and are due to be paid by the latest January 18, 2022. The Fernald lumber will be doing some logging. The lights in the Town Hall's gymnasium ceiling will be replaced with LED bulbs using a lift. There will be improved lighting both in front of the Town Hall and where the police vehicles are parked. The application process is underway to provide for the public use of the well at Marston. Scruton recommended bonding be in place for any town project valued at \$125,000 or more.

Scruton continued by noting the lift is being installed finally in the library. He gave a vote of confidence in the Recreation's Afterschool program. He said the BOS' plan to apply the Recreation Revolving Funds (RRF) to cover lifeguards, gate workers, staff, and scholarship costs were within the approved uses of the RRF. There will be a Warrant Article to expand the eligibility for the Veterans' Tax Credit. Active service members will now be covered.



Dee Decker, Chair, Supervisor of the Checklist

Next, Dee Decker, Chair, Supervisor of the Checklist, appeared before the BOS. It has requested her information about the discrepancy with the supervisors' costs increasing and poll workers' declining, that had been noted as the BOS was reviewing the 2023 Town Budget line-by-line. She thanked the BOS, cited an error in calculations, and a reduction in Election costs. The lower budget figures were due to the increased efficiency, which resulted in fewer hours of work, and the Presidential Primary would be in January 2024 rather than in December 2023. She cited the Supervisors' terms were for 6 years because of the complexities and ever-changing requirements of the position. She wanted the Supervisors' hourly pay to increase from \$12.50 to \$16.00. Some of the time and space efficiency improvements was the use of voting records, which have to be preserved for 7 years, and are now stored on flash drives. There were two flash drives which were both at the Supervisors' homes. Although it made it easier and quicker for the Supervisors to get information and answer questions, the BOS was concerned about their security and wondered if the drives should be encrypted. She again pointed out the integrity of Nottingham elections.

The BOS returned to how to meet the 4% Tax Cap. It approved all the cuts made on [December 5, 2022](#) workshop. With other reductions, the BOS was about 1.4% above the 4%, level or it still had \$67,000 more to trim. It decided to send its currently determined budget to the Budget Committee which will meet this Thursday. Then the BOS will review changes by the Budget Committee when it meets next.



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The BOS and ITA then launched into a preliminary review of Warrant Articles (WA) for the Deliberative Session 2023. It will also await the CIP recommendations on these. The WA included Veterans Credits, Fire truck \$100,000, Fire Department garage door, \$11,000, a floor, \$12,000, Paving \$400,000, Recycling Center, backhoe, \$125,000, a Highway Department vehicle, Invasive weeds fund, and new gym floor in Community Center. The BOS sought clarification of the Ambulance Fund WA, the every 5-year Town-wide reassessment WA, and Police mobile data units WA. It voiced concerns about the leak in the Fire Department roof as well as the gutter issues with that building.

The BOS signed the default budget and went into non-public meeting. On December 13 and 16, 2022 the BOS will be interviewing 6 candidates for the Town Administrator(TA) position. The next regular BOS meeting will be Tuesday, December 27, 2022, 6:30 PM.