



Paul Dallaire nearest and Gary Anderson of the Facilities Assessment Committee

Nottingham Board of Selectmen Meeting October 31, 2022
Steve Soreff, MD

Following an uncharacteristic warm and pleasant fall day, the Nottingham Board of Selectmen (BOS) met Monday at 6:30 PM on October 31, 2022, in the Community Center for the 20th time this year. For the record, here is the [COVID -19 report](#) for Nottingham: 8 new cases in the past 14 days; 1174 total (1 new) as of October 31, 2022. Present were 4 members of the Board, Ben Bartlett, Tony Dumas, Donna Danis, and John Morin, as well as the Interim Town Administrator (IAT), John Scruton. Also present were several Department heads, members of the Facilities Assessment Committee (FAC), the Chair of the Planning Board, and a number of residents. The BOS reviewed several department budgets, heard from the FAC, prepared for the November 8th election, and listen to the concerns of a couple of citizens.

After the Pledge and the acceptance manifests and minutes, there were committee reports. Budget will meet on Thursday, November 10. Planning is dealing with 3 continuing proposals. The 300th had a successful [Chowder Contest](#) on October 29th and it will have a [Veterans Day](#) ceremony in front of the Library at 11 AM, on Friday, November 11, 2022. CIP is waiting for the School information. Marston is progressing.

Next, Interim Town Administrator (IAT), John Scruton reported. The folks on a new subdivision road wanted the name Captain Smith added to the list of possible street names. The BOS sought more information on that. The town's signature is added to the [New Hampshire Municipal Association](#) (NHMA) legal information access. There were concerns about old legal records of the NHMA that the BOS did not want. The culvert collapsed on Birch Tree Lane (the old name North River Road) and will cost at least \$40, 000 to repair. Impact fees collected for the school were returned. The town website will no longer contain any political party information.

With the town's Deliberative Session (DS) set for early February, either the 4 or the 11 2023, and the election for March 14, 2023, the BOS was hearing from many departments about their budgets. The following highlight many of their changes, costs, and concerns.



Blaisdell Memorial Library: Jennifer P Phillips, nearest, and Director Elizabeth Bolton

The first that night to present to the BOS were Trustee Jennifer P Phillips, and Director Elizabeth Bolton. They cited the huge increase in use in the last years with an especially large number of children coming to the programs. Its operating budget will increase by 4%. Factors behind that were the cost of the automated book system, the plastic book coverings went up 168%, and adult audio CDs up 17%. Salaries need to increase to be competitive and to retain staff, especially for the director position. It has added a legal line item that is needed for policy review and potential suits. The furnace is not well.

At 7 PM, there was a [Public Hearing](#) pursuant to [RSA 31:95-b](#), regarding the acceptance of up to \$275,000 in unanticipated funds from legislative appropriations in 2022. This is a once-only situation. There were no comments from the public. The BOS approved the funds to be applied to police and fire retirement, bridges, and work on Class IV and V roads.

Next as pictured at the start of this article Paul Dallaire and Gary Anderson of the Facilities Assessment Committee addressed the BOS. Although their work is not complete, with the looming DS, they wanted to share their preliminary findings. They have met with heads of fire, police, and recreation. Its major immediate recommendation is for the town to have a facility maintenance manager. This person would repair as they came up in all the town buildings. Now, small unaddressed problems such as leaks and broken ceiling tiles ultimately lead to major expenses. Its other recommendation is for a staff area in each of the town buildings such as at the Recycling Center and town garage. This would improve morale and help in staff retention. The BOS looked forward to their completed work and suggested their group contribute to the Town's 2023 Annual Report.

They were followed by Lori Anderson, the Town Clerk. She noted her department generates over 1.1 million dollars of revenue for the town. She and her Deputy are paid on salary and by a percentage of transaction fees. Each works solo but indicates in the future that there need to be both on duty. The two should like to go to a two-day conference. They need a second phone and expressed concerns that they do not receive the benefits of full-time employees.



Edward Viel, Chair Planning Board

The next up was Edward Viel, Chair of the [Planning Board](#) (PB). That Board shares a secretary the Zoning Board. The PB has a consultant with the [Strafford Regional Planning Commission](#) (SRPC). He stressed the importance of Nottingham becoming a dues paying member of the SRPC that will be \$6,500 per year. It would give Nottingham “a seat at the table”. PB is working a up-date town map and participating in the town’s Master Plan. He noted that each year the PB is dealing more complex and complicated caseload.



Fire & Rescue Chief, Jaye Vilchok

Next up was Nottingham Fire & Rescue Department (NF&RD) Chief, Jaye Vilchok. The NF&RD is budgeted for 6 full-time personnel; they have 4 now, with another one coming in 2023. They cover Monday -Saturday. Sunday is staffed per diem. He added recently one of our firefighters went to work in Epping. They pay 10% higher than Nottingham. The Chief salary is up 4%. Other costs have increased including breathing apparatus maintenance of \$400, mutual aid program went from \$420 to \$1,000, immunization shots, uniforms, gas, and diesel fuels. The cost of the Haz-mat Mutual Aid was &17,000. There will be the expense of the contracted construction for a hydrant on Kennard Road. The new ambulance money will come from \$376,000 in the Ambulance fund. ALS support from Exeter Hospital has gone up in price.



Shawn McLean, Head of Public Works

Then Shawn McLean, Head of Public Works (PW) spoke. Again, he note price increases such as sand, stone, and gravel up 18% and salt up 22%. There will salary increases partly do to merit and overtime factors. There was the addition of WiFi connection to the town garage. The Recycling Center's Bobcat needs to be replaced with a backhoe. There will be \$30,000 for roadside mowing and Knotweed control.



The BOS took up its preparation for November 8, 2022 election. This included Board coverage, the positions of electioneering outside the school, and the movement of items to the school. PW would prepare the Nottingham School's gym floor for the election.

Before closing the public part of the meeting, two citizens spoke. Maureen Campaiola asked about how the Public Hearing was publicized. Douglas Bates questioned the ITA's estimate that "there would thousands of dollars for the camp roads' maintenance for these newly town-voted streets" at the BOS meeting on October 17 BOS meeting. He was also concerned that these newly acquired roads were now being widened by PW.

The November 14 meeting of the BOS will look at how to use the [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\)](#) funds.

It was a very long meeting. The BOS currently deals with important department requests, inflation, a tight labor market, and a voter-approved 4% budget cap. The BOS then went into non-public session.

