



Town Administrator, Chris Sterndale resigns and moves on to Auburn, NH

Nottingham Board of Selectmen Meeting September 12, 2022  
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Following a pleasant late summer day with clouds moving in anticipation of the much-needed rain, the Nottingham Board of Selectmen (BOS) met Monday at 6:30 PM on September 12, 2022, in the Community Center for the 16<sup>th</sup> time this year. For the record, here is the COVID-19 report for Nottingham: Nottingham: 1-4 new cases in the past 14 days; 1144 total (3 new) as of September 9, 2022. None of the BOS wore masks. Present were 4 of the Board, Tiler Eaton, Tony Dumas, John Morin, and Donna Danis as well as Town Administrator, Chris Sterndale. Also present were residents on Lamprey Drive and Tuckaway Shores as well as Fawn Woodman and Shawn McLean. The BOS focused on the Town Administrator position, police and public works budgets, road names, a townland sale, and the Code of Ethics.

After the Pledge and the acceptance manifests and minutes, Danis Committees reported that the Town Administrator, Chris Sterndale had submitted his resignation. His last day here will be October 6. She cited what a tremendous job he has done for the town but she was sad to have him go. He began in 2014 and will move on to the Town Administrator in Auburn, NH. Later, in the meeting, the BOS will discuss plans to cover that position.

Then there were committee reports. The 300<sup>th</sup> will have picnic and boat rides at [Pawtuckaway State Park](#) on September 17<sup>th</sup> and a [Chili contest](#) on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The Budget Committee is introducing its ground rule for the new budget hearings. The Planning Board is hearing about many subdivisions, on Stevens Hill and Route 4.

Next Chris Sterndale spoke. There will be an election on Tuesday. Since the elections are now being held at the Nottingham School rather than the Town Hall, election equipment will be stored at the old station. The Fire Chief has applied for state funds to cover the costs of fighting the fire at [the state park](#). The state will cover half the town's expenses. The sale of the town parcel off NH 152 has been suspended due to the recently uncovered ownership dispute. The E 911 address changes have been out by certified letters. At this point, residents of the Tuckaway Shores, Chris Evans voiced concern about the new name, Martha Lane for their road and offered two other names, Herron and Henry. It is being pursued if there is still time to change it again.

Doing its Assessing Duties, the BOS approved one Intent to Cut.



Brooke Schaefer, a resident of Lamprey Drive speaking in the background Herb Bernard

Then concerns about Lamprey Drive took centerstage. Two residents of Lamprey Drive, Brooke Schaefer, and Herb Bernard addressed the Board. They wanted to preserve their residents' Lamprey Drive addresses even with the E 911 changes. Originally, the plans for Lamprey Drive were to be a loop. These were drawn about 60 years ago. The shorefront section of the circuit was never completed. They proposed at their expense \$30,000 to do that immediately. They had the construction company ready to go and winter is soon here. They also wanted to have BOS acceptance of the new section once completed. Shawn McLean of the Highway Department voiced some truck turning and other issues. The BOS wanted a survey before the work was done. The survey would be conducted at the residents' expense. A plan was offered with a survey first and then McLean, the contractor, and residents together would get the loop done. The advantage of the loop is that it gave residents two ways in and out.



Fawn Woodman, Chief Nottingham Police Department

Next Fawn Woodman, Chief Nottingham Police Department, addressed the Board. She reviewed her department's activities and its budget requests. The department normally has 8 full time officers and is down one. It expects new cruiser's installed cameras in 3 months. All cruisers have the right electronic equipment; e.g. to connect to the Motor Vehicle Department. There were no incidents with 300<sup>th</sup> events and great co-operation there was noted. There is more police training, especially on how to deal with mental health issues and domestic violence. Gary Anderson is now the chaplain for the department and he has been very helpful. Officers have been taking their vacations, in answer to retention concerns questions by the BOS

She then reviewed her budget requests. First, is a new cruiser for 2023. However, for that year, it will keep the old cruiser instead of trading it in. As a result, the department will have 5 cruisers. It will replace its cruisers' [Mobile Data Terminals](#) (MDT). "The current trend in mobile computing involves the use of pen technology to enable officers to complete incident and accident reports in the field using full-function computers." Finally, she wants to establish through a Warrant Article an Expanded Trust Fund. This would provide money in an emergency for the department to replace important equipment such as printers. The BOS liked that idea.



Shawn McLean, Director of Public Works

Following the process of the Board preparing the 2023 Town Budget, after Woodman was Shawn McLean, Director of Public Works. He reviewed his department's activities and budget requests. The highway department is down one worker. Work on Case and Flutter Roads are almost complete. It is ready for winter with salt and sand ready. He expects the new truck soon. The Highway Department has 3 10-wheelers and 1 6-wheeler. He then went into his requests. At the Recycling Center, a back-hoe will replace the Bobcat. A new Ford 350 will replace the current one. This will cost \$104,000. The Salt Sheds need new roofs. Currently, the salt, about 200 tons, is in danger from the weather. This would cost \$31,500. The BOS approved it using American Rescue Plan Act ([ARPA](#)) funds.

He proposed the paving of the parking lot at Marston. This was particularly cost-efficient since the crew doing Case Road was there already. The cost was \$36,000. The Board insisted to the paved area be marked for parking spots. It approved it with ARPA funds. At the Recycling Center, the tires were exposed and collecting rainwater. This is a health hazard. The NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) has been looking into tire storage issues. The Board approved \$9,790. The Board asked for the fuel tank removal request to be looked at next year.



Nottingham Parks & Recreation Department

The BOS reviewed the items on the [NH Municipal Association](#) annual meeting agenda without comment and voted that Sterndale should not attend its September 22, 2022 meeting. The Board next accepted the Parks & Recreation Department's Field Use Policy. This helps in scheduling field events. This is especially important with Marston now ready. The BOS adopted its Code of Ethics Policy. It also accepted the state's fiscal parameters. There was a discussion on the NH [Department of Revenue Administration's](#) (NHDRA) guidelines about revenue sources non from taxes sources such a. motor vehicle registrations and Unanticipated Revenue such as ARPA. Nottingham has been given about 5 million dollars in ARPA funds to be spent over 3 years. If the Board uses the funds this year, it will lower taxes. But it also means the following year, taxes would be higher.

Next, the Board dealt with the town's Property and Liability Policy. It had to agree that the rate could increase more than a maximum of 9% per year for the next 3 years. The dilemma is that town has an affordable policy which is very hard to get now. The BOS approved it. Moving on, the Board looked at a local request of a woodworker to use the town's logo. It granted it for 6 months. Finally, the Board reviewed ways to handle the absence of the Town Administrator (AT). It will work with [Municipal Resources, Inc](#) (MRI) "Municipal Resources, Inc. is dedicated to providing professional, technical, and managerial services to meet your community's needs. We understand local government and have hands-on experience that can be put to work to deliver services tailored to the New England communities we serve." It will help find the town find a new TA. Of interest, right now, the candidate pool is limited. MRI offers interim help, also at \$85 per hour. The Board will come up with a job description and plan for the use of an interim.

The BOS will next meet Tuesday, September 27, 2022, The meeting went into Non-public at 9:30 PM. It was a long and busy night.