



Board of Selectmen left to right Ben Bartlett, Tiler Eaton, John Morin, Donna Danis as well as the Interim Town Administrator (IAT), John Scruton

Nottingham Board of Selectmen Meeting December 29, 2022.

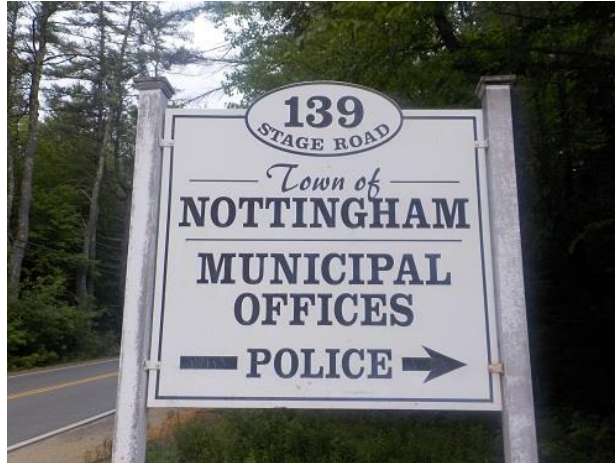
Steve Soreff, MD

Following an unusually warm, sunny early winter day, the Nottingham Board of Selectmen (BOS) met Monday at 6:30 PM on December 29, 2022, in the Community Center. The COVID Nottingham: 8 new cases last 14 days; 1208 total (2 new) as of December 29, 2022. Present were 4 members of the Board, Ben Bartlett, Donna Danis, Tiler Eaton, and John Morin, as well as the Interim Town Administrator (IAT), John Scruton. Also, there was Betsy Warrington, the Town Bookkeeper

After the Pledge, the BOS approved minutes from December 12,13,20, and 27 for both public and non-public meetings. With no committee reports since they were heard on December 27, the BOS set about its task of complying with the 4% Tax Cap. CIP had not met because it lack a quorum. Before that, the ITA noted an increase in the HVAC maintenance contract of about \$1,000 to Beaudette & Sons. This contract included the 2 large boilers. . The BOS approved it. He asked the BOS to formally accept about \$44,000 in revenue from police details in other towns. This had been talked about at the December 27 BOS meeting but not voted for. The BOS did approve it. The BOS also approve the Highland drainage contract with Deerfield Sand and Gravel.

With those votes taken, the BOS set about the long, which many felt frustrating position, of either agreeing with or disagreeing with the Town Budget (TB) as modified by the Budget Committee (BC) in its meeting on December 22, 2022. Oversimplified, the BOS gave BC its TB which was over the cap by about \$64,000. The BC returned with the TB with about \$71,000 in reductions. Spoiler alert, the BOS would work on the TB all night line by line, it still will await

the town revenue figures before it makes its final decisions on TB now the newly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2023. The BOS final TB is due on January 5 and the [BC public hearing](#) on the TB is scheduled for January 10. January 10, is also the last day to file any [Warrant Articles](#).



The BC gave the BOS 41 line items which it reduced out of a 382 line TB of \$4,882,472. The BOS reluctantly generally agreed with most of the reductions. The following represent items that were discussed by the BOS. Item 21, Pawtuckaway Lake Advisory no consensus reached.<sup>22</sup> The Town Newsletter -concerned if it should be all online. 26 Town Clerk salary, no raises but the number of hours was increased. 36-37 election workers' salaries were debated as to whether it was increased and the number of elections was less than predicted. BOS saw no way not to add to into budget calculation the increased fuel costs. The BOS wanted the amount of the elevation by 40% instead of the BC at 50%. For 259 Highway Department overtime, the BOS disagreed with BC reductions. 267 Highway Department culvert, there was a discussion if ARPA could cover it. This touched on a planned review of where and how to spend the ARPA funds for engineering projects. The BOS with pain accepted BC reductions in the Social Services areas. 337 Recreation maintenance and mowing produced a shape debate and will be revisited. 349 Library salaries needed clarification. 351 Library legal cost was debated and BOS if the town lawyer could cover them.

By the end of the meeting, it was about \$40,000 over the tax cap. With the report of town revenues to be finally reported, the BOS will meet Tuesday, January 3, 2023, to make its final decisions. Before adjourning, ITA noted the following things. There is a need to supervise of Recreation rented private parties in the gym. BOS suggested locked doors to protect the rest of the Town Hall. The BOS discovered the Trustee's warrant article for the discontinuance of the Recycling Center fund was to be used to purchase equipment. Based on that, it wanted to keep the fund. The NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) cited the town for the removal of the oil town at the town garage. It was a result of miscommunication and being solved.

The BOS adjourned at 9:11 PM. It will meet again Tuesday, January 3, 2023.