

Nottingham Budget Committee Meeting
Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024
Un-Official Minutes

Members Present: Michael Kelly, Chairman; Owen Friend-Gray, Vice Chairman; John Decker, Member; Sandra Jones, Member; Jeffrey Morrison, Member; Brent Tweed, Member; Thomas Butkiewicz, Member; Charlotte Fyfe, Member; Robert Kelly, Member; Megan Sebasco, School Board Representative; Tim Dabrieo, BOS Representative

Members Absent:

Others Present: Fawn Woodman, Police Chief

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

(There was no video footage until 7:30 p.m. due to technical difficulties)

Approval Of Minutes: 01/04/24 and 01/09/24

Mr. Decker made the motion to accept the minutes of 01/04/24 as amended. Mr. Tweed seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-1-1.

Mr. Tweed stated that there was concern from some members that the minutes should attempt to be neutral and not partisan.

Ms. Fyfe made the motion to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Decker seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 9-0-2.

There was discussion on Town Revenues, Warrant Articles, and Tax Cap.

Mr. Friend-Gray read the law in regard to the tax cap calculation, RSA 32: 5-B Section 1(A), "If the local taxes raised for the prior year were reduced by any fund balance brought forward from the previous year, the amount of such reductions shall be added back and included in the amount to which the tax cap is applied under paragraph 1."

Mr. Friend-Gray stated that they could not compare the budget from last year to this year due to the change in calculation.

Mr. Dabrieo explained that they could have NHMA come in to speak in front of the Budget Committee and probably the BOS in the future to explain the tax cap calculation and the process of budgeting.

Mr. Dabrieo stated that the estimated Unassigned Fund Balance was \$2,660,239. He stated that the goal of the BOS for the Unassigned Fund Balance was 11-12% of the total budget including the school. The current percentage was 11.7%.

Mr. Michael Kelly asked if the Committee could approve the revenues.

42

43 There was discussion about the Recreation Revolving Fund. Mr. Dabrieo stated that if, for some reason,
44 the Recreation Revolving Fund did not have enough funds, the employees would still be paid out of the
45 budget.

46

47 Ms. Sebasco read the estimated Revenue number of \$2,567,970.

48

49 There was discussion about the donations to the Police Department. Mr. Dabrieo and Mr. Friend-Gray
50 offered to donate \$4,000 each so that the revenue figure could be accepted by the Committee.

51

52 ***Mr. Butkiewicz made the motion to approve the revenues including the stated donations. Ms. Fyfe***
53 ***seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 10-0-1.***

54

55 Mr. Michael Kelly read off the updated default budget figure, which was \$4,848,607.

56

57 There was discussion about the Town Newsletter and how there had been misinformation going around
58 town about it. The Budget Committee did not decide to stop funding the Newsletter.

59

60 The Committee reviewed the Town Budget line by line.

61

62 ***Mr. Butkiewicz made the motion to change the amount budgeted for Fire Station Heat from \$12,000 to***
63 ***\$10,000. Mr. Tweed seconded the motion. The failed by a vote of 4-7-0.***

64

65 ***Mr. Tweed made the motion to change the amount budgeted for Fire Station Heat to \$11,000. The***
66 ***motion was seconded by Mr. Butkiewicz. The motion passed by a vote of 6-5-0.***

67

68 ***Mr. Robert Kelly made the motion to change the amount budgeted for Marston Electric to \$1650. Ms.***
69 ***Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-5-0.***

70

71 ***Mr. Michael Kelly made the motion to reduce the amount budgeted for Rec Park, Field, Beach***
72 ***Maintenance, and Mowing from \$25,000 to \$15,000. Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. The motion***
73 ***passed by a vote of 6-4-1.***

74

75 *Mr. Friend-Gray made the motion to increase the amount budgeted for the Select Board from \$10,000*
76 *to \$15,000. Mr. Robert Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-5-0.*

77

78 *Mr. Brent Tweed made a motion to reduce the bottom line Operating Budget to \$5,037,059. Seconded*
79 *by Mr. Robert Kelly.*

80

81 There was further discussion on calculations after this motion was made.

82

83 **The motion failed by a vote of 3-6-2.**

84

85 *Mr. Decker made the motion to recommend Warrant Article #2 as written. Ms. Jones seconded the*
86 *motion. The motion passed by a vote of 6-5-0.*

87

88 *Mr. Butkiewicz made the motion to recommend Warrant Article #3 as written. The motion was*
89 *seconded by Mr. Dabrieo. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-0.*

90

91 *Mr. Butkiewicz made the motion to recommend Warrant Article #4 as written. The motion was*
92 *seconded by Mr. Decker. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-0.*

93

94 *Mr. Butkiewicz made the motion to recommend Warrant Article #5 as written. The motion was*
95 *seconded by Mr. Decker. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-0.*

96

97 *Ms. Fyfe made the motion to recommend Warrant Article #6 as written. The motion was seconded by*
98 *Mr. Robert Kelly.*

99

100 There was discussion about the Fire Chief position.

101

102 **The motion failed by a vote of 3-8-0.**

103

104 *Mr. Butkiewicz made the motion to recommend Warrant Article #7 as written. The motion was*
105 *seconded by Mr. Friend-Gray. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-0.*

106

107 *Ms. Fyfe made the motion to recommend Warrant Article #8 as written. The motion was seconded by*
108 *Ms. Sebasco. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-0.*

109

110 *Ms. Fyfe made the motion to recommend Warrant Article #9 as written. The motion was seconded by*
111 *Mr. Decker. The motion failed by a vote of 9-2-0 .*

112

113 *Mr. Friend-Gray made the motion to recommend Warrant Article #10 as written. The motion was*
114 *seconded by Mr. Dabrieo. The motion failed by a vote of 6-5-0.*

115

116 *Ms. Friend-Gray made the motion to recommend Warrant Article #11 as written. The motion was*
117 *seconded by Mr. Robert Kelly. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-0.*

118

119 *Mr. Butkiewicz made the motion to recommend Warrant Article #12 as written. The motion was*
120 *seconded by Mr. Tim Dabrieo. The motion passed by a vote of 6-5-0.*

121

122 *Mr. Friend-Gray made the motion to recommend Warrant Article #13 as written. The motion was*
123 *seconded by Mr. Morrisson. The motion passed by a vote of 11-0-0.*

124

125 *Mr. Tweed made the motion to recommend Warrant Article #14 as written. The motion was seconded*
126 *by Mr. Morrison. The motion passed by a vote of 8-3-0.*

127

128 *Mr. Friend-Gray made the motion to recommend Warrant Article #15 as written. The motion was*
129 *seconded by Mr. Decker. The motion passed by a vote of 8-2-1.*

130

131 *Mr. Friend-Gray made the motion to recommend Warrant Article #16 as written. The motion was*
132 *seconded by Mr. Decker. The motion passed by a vote of 6-5-0.*

133

134 *Mr. Decker made the motion to recommend Warrant Article #17 as written. The motion was seconded*
135 *by Mr. Dabrieo. The motion passed by a vote of 8-3-0.*

136

137 **Mr. Decker made the motion to recommend Warrant Article #18 as written. The motion was seconded**
138 **by Ms. Fyfe. The motion _____ by a vote of _____.**

139

140 **The video ended at 12:00 a.m..**

141

142 Transcribed per video.

143 Respectfully Submitted,

144 Alana J. Kenney

145

146 School Warrant Articles

147 The budget committee discussed and few different line items of the proposed school operating budget,
148 but ultimately only made an adjustment to line 01.3210.5110 Salary/Schoolboard and recommended
149 this be reduced from \$18,000 to \$15,000 to match the board of selectman's stipends. **Mr. Decker made**
150 **the motion for this adjustment. Motion was seconded by Mr. Butkiewicz. The motion passed 8-1-2.**

151

152 Further discussion occurred with respect to the bottom line increase of the operating budget from last
153 year to the proposal this year. **Mr. Tweed proposed a bottom line budget of \$16,238,550 which was a**
154 **calculation of a 4% increase to the operating budget from the previous year. The motion was seconded**
155 **by Mr. Butkiewicz. The motioned failed by a vote of 4-6-1**

156

157 Anticipated revenues for the upcoming year were reviewed. Mr. Butkiewicz motioned to accept the
158 revenues as presented by the school board. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed by a
159 vote of 11-0.

160

161 Ms. Sebasco read off the warrant articles and made the motions to recommend on articles 2, 3, 4, 5, and
162 6. Seconds were made by Mr. Dabrieo, Mr. Morrison, Mr. Friend-Gray, and then twice by Mr. Tweed
163 respectively. All votes are noted within the article text on the line "The Budget Committee recommends
164 this appropriation by a ____ - ____ vote."

165

166 **ARTICLE #1**

167 To choose the following School District Officers:

168

- 169 a) School Board Member Term of 3 Years
170 b) School Board Member Term of 3 Years
171 c) School District Clerk Term of 3 Years
172

173 There was no discussion or vote by the budget committee on this article

174

175 **ARTICLE #2**

176 Shall the Nottingham School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including
177 appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set
178 forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by the vote of the first session, for the
179 purposes set forth therein, totaling Sixteen Million, Six Hundred Sixty-Three Thousand, Four Hundred
180 Forty-One Dollars (\$16,663,441) Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Sixteen
181 Million, Five Hundred Seventeen Thousand, One Hundred Seventy-Two Dollars (\$16,517,172), which is
182 the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Nottingham School
183 Board or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X
184 and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Majority vote required)

185 The operating budget warrant does not include appropriations contained in any other warrant articles.

186 The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 5-0 vote.

187 The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a 6-5 vote.

188 The estimated tax impact if this article passes is \$15.48 per \$1,000.

189 The estimated tax impact if this article does not pass is \$15.31 per \$1,000.

190

191 There was no further discussion on warrant article #2 beyond the previously noted discussions at this
192 time.

193

194 **ARTICLE #3**

195 To see if the Nottingham School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty Thousand
196 Dollars (\$50,000) to be added to the Building Repair Capital Reserve Fund previously established.
197 Current balance on 12/31/23 is \$266,648.37. (Majority vote required)

198 (*Anticipated deposit of \$80,885.65 from FY23 unreserved fund balance and an anticipated withdrawal
199 of \$138,810.21 for the replacement of the Nottingham School Gymnasium and Cafeteria flat roof,
200 making the anticipated balance \$208,723.81)

201 The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 5-0 vote.

202 The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a 10-1 vote.

203 The estimated tax impact if this article passes is \$ 0.06 per \$1,000.

204 The tax impact if this article does not pass is \$0.00 per \$1,000.

205

206 Discussions on warrant article #3 were limited to what the expenses might be used on and what types of
207 expenses could be covered.

208

209 **ARTICLE #4**

210 To see if Nottingham School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to Twenty-Five
211 Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Textbook Capital Reserve Fund previously established?
212 This sum is to come from June 30, 2024 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2024.
213 No additional amount to be raised by taxation. Current balance on 12/31/23 is \$11,925.96. (Majority
214 vote required)

215 The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 5-0 vote.

216 The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a 7-4 vote.

217 There is no additional tax impact if this article passes.

218

219 Discussions of warrant article #4 consisted of statements about the value of textbooks and subscriptions
220 that expire versus the changes and upgrades in teaching methods and styles.

221

222 **ARTICLE #5**

223 To see if the Nottingham School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to Twenty-Five
224 Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Special Education Capital Reserve Fund previously
225 established? This sum is to come from June 30, 2024 unassigned fund balance available for transfer on
226 July 1, 2024. No additional amount to be raised by taxation. Current balance on 12/31/23 is
227 \$173,394.88. (Majority vote required)

228 The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 5-0 vote.

229 The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a 11-0 vote.

230 There is no additional tax impact if this article passes

231 Warrant article #5 discussions were limited to what kinds of money can be added to the fund based on
232 how the article was written and what would occur if there was no unassigned funds at the end of the
233 fiscal year, which is that the warrant wouldn't be funded.

234

235 **ARTICLE #6**

236 To see if the Nottingham School District will vote to establish a Capital Reserve Fund under the
237 provisions of RSA 35:1-c to be known as the Tuition Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of
238 unanticipated student tuition costs and further raise and appropriate the sum of up to Twenty Thousand
239 Dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in the fund, with such amount to be funded from the June 30, 2024 year-
240 end unassigned fund balance available for transfer on July 1, 2024 and further to appoint the School
241 Board as agents to expend from the fund. (Majority vote required)

242 The School Board recommends this appropriation by a 5-0 vote.

243 The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation by a 10-1 vote.

244 There is no additional tax impact if this article passes.

245

246 The discussions of warrant article #6 revolved on the specifics of how the creation of this fund would
247 allow for or allocate funds to be spent and what types of funds could be added.

248

249 ***A motion was made by Mr. Friend-Gray at 12:34am to adjourn. Second was made by Mr. Dabrieo.***
250 ***Motion carried by a vote of 11-0.***

251