

Town of Nottingham, NH
Deliberative Session Minutes - Saturday, February 3, 2024

The meeting of Fourth Annual Town Deliberative Session was called to order at 9:03 am by Moderator Dawn Fernald.

Moderator Fernald welcomed everyone to the first session, the Deliberative Session. The second session will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2023 at Nottingham School. She then introduced herself and asked that everyone stand in honor of Charlie Brown, longtime Town Administrator, and his wife Mona, who both passed away in 2023. She stated that this meeting is dedicated to them.

The Moderator then introduced the Election officials at the meeting: Bonnie Winona MacKinnon and Peter Warzowski, Assistant Moderators; Ballot Clerks Diane Reiner, Pat Freidan, and Teresa Bascom; Supervisors of the Checklist, Dee Ann Decker, Ruth Anne Fuller, and Sandi Neff. She then introduced the Board of Selectmen from right to left: Ben Bartlett, John Morin, Matt Shirland, Steve Welch, and Tim Dabrio. It was noted that Michael Kelly, the Chair of the Budget Committee could not be there, and that Owen Friend-Gray, Vice Chair was at the table. Jeffrey Morrison, Tom Butkiewicz, John Decker, and Charlotte Fyfe, the other members of the Budget Committee were sitting in the front row. Moderator Fernald then introduced Ellen White, Town Administrator; Fawn Woodman, Police Chief; Steve Rollins, Head of the Road Department; Kortney Dorow Duball, Director, and Bridgit Hart, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, noting that they will be given permission to speak as well as Susan Lowry, Town Attorney. She then thanked members of the Police Department and Fire and Rescue for attending the session.

Moderator Fernald then gave a background of the process. Department Heads submit budgets for the upcoming year to the Board of Selectman, who then present them to the Budget Committee, which develop Warrant Article #2. This article is up for discussion and debate but no moving or voting on this article will take place today. Amendments can be made then voted upon. Amendments are limited and subject matter cannot be changed. She then noted that there is a 10% rule where no line item can be increased to exceed 10% and Ms. Lowry will be the guide for limitations.

The Moderator then read the rules for the meeting and stated there would be a 5 minute time limit for all speakers.

Moderator Fernald then read Article #2 as follows:

Article #2: Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$5,137,855 (Five Million One Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Five Dollars). Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,848,607 (Four Million Eight Hundred Forty-Eight Thousand Six Hundred Seven Dollars) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. The estimated tax impact is \$3.14 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (6-5)

Jaye Vilchok stepped up to the microphone and stated that the safety record for this facility was out of date.

Owen Friend-Gray then spoke of the 2024 Default Budget MS-DTB and the 2024 Proposed Budget MS-737. He gave an overview of the tax cap implementation and that the major items included salaries which were upwards of 40% in some cases adjust to become adequate wages, and that reductions were made in other areas to support the salary increases. Owen then explained by column the meaning of each column and that the 3rd column was proposed by the Board of Selectmen and that the 5th column was proposed by the Budget Committee.

He then stated that page 9 listed the anticipated revenues and page 12 was the Budget Summary to calculate the tax cap. The estimated Revenues of taxes is not to exceed 4%. Appropriates can be greater due to other revenue streams. The Proposed Budget was \$6,219,730.00.

The Moderator then open the floor for discussion.

Teresa Bascom asked that everyone speak into the microphone so that all could be heard.

Jaye Vilchok asked if line items could be discussed at this time. The Moderator stated that they could. Mr. Vilchok then asked about the amount for the salary for the Fire Chief and 6 full time firefighters and how they were calculated. Matt Shirland stated that the amounts were based on 15,000 hours. Jaye stated that it should have been 17,000 and the rational on overtime. Matt then stated that overtime is calculated for full time firefighters on any hours over 45, and they made the calculations based upon 3 overtime hours per week. 45 hours were regular time and 3 were overtime.

Mr. Vilchok stated that last year it was calculated as 48 hours straight time. He then asked about per diem.

Doug Bates then spoke about line 4153 and that legal fees were at \$30,000. He stated that \$83,000 was spent on legal fees for 2023, and that major lawsuits to be heard in June would increase this line item. He motioned that it be raised to \$130,000. The Moderator then asked for the amendment in writing.

Line 4153 was read as amended to be \$130,000. Gary Anderson seconded the motion.

Tom Butkiewicz stating that amending the bottom line, since no means no vs yes meaning yes. The Moderator explained the bottom line dollar figure would be changed and not each item. He then asked the Moderator to ask the attorney if more money is asked for, will they be more likely to spend it. The Moderator did not direct the question to the attorney as she felt it was inappropriate.

Moderator then asked for a vote to be taken on Article #2, line item 4153, presently at \$40,001, adding \$99,999 proposed by Doug Bates.

Skip Seaverns asked if it was necessary if would be spent anyway.

Gary Anderson asked if were not approved, where is the money taken from, another line item? John Morin stated that staffing issues have freed up funds and those would be used to make up for losses.

The Moderator stated that each line item will not be adjusted, only the bottom line. The DRA will allocate as necessary. The figure on the floor is currently proposed to be amended to \$5,237,854.

Town of Nottingham, NH
Deliberative Session Minutes - Saturday, February 3, 2024

Doug Bates motioned, to approve, Gary Anderson seconded the motion. The motion failed by a yea/nay vote.

Jaye Vilchok spoke about reducing the full time firefighter salaries if they were not able to fill the positions. He stated that on call staff was approximately \$40,000 and asked if mandatory duty nights are still necessary. Fire Chief Matthew Curry stated that the people paid per diem do not have mandatory duty nights at this time.

Jaye asked when the policy stopped, and Matt answered in May or June of 2023.

Tom Butkiewicz invoked RSA 40:10 on Article 2, Tim Dabrieo seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Vilchok wanted to speak to Article 2, and the Moderator stated that could not be done since RSA 40:10 had been invoked.

The Moderator then read Article #3 aloud as follows:

Article #3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Police Technology Equipment Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.01 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (11-0)

Selectman Bartlett spoke to the article stating that it would be for tools for the Police that would be used every day and that these tools would bring them into the 21st century.

Police Chief Fawn Woodman spoke stating it was the second year for the fund and stated what items would be purchased, such as body cams, and dashcams. She then asked if anyone had concerns or comments. There were none.

Moderator motioned for Article #3 to be placed on the ballot as written. Ben Bartlett motioned to invoke RSA 40:10, Tom B seconded the motion and it passed.

Moderator Fernald then read Article #4 as written.

Article #4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 (Forty Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of purchasing the necessary fuel, supplies, equipment, and maintenance to run the ambulance and billing services for 2024; and to authorize the withdrawal of \$40,000.00 (Forty Thousand Dollars) from the Ambulance and Equipment Replacement Special Revenue Fund created for this purpose. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.00 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (11-0)

Selectman Shirland spoke about the Article and that it had been used for many years to fund the ambulance.

Sandra Vilchok asked about amendments if they failed. Moderator stated that they cannot be brought up again if RSA 40:10 has been invoked.

Jaye Vilchok asked for the amount of ambulance transportation fees collected in 2023. Selectman Shirland stated they did not have a direct dollar amount.

Moderator Fernald interjected that the amendment on Article 2 failed.

Matthew Shirland stated again that the direct dollar amount was not available.

Skip Seaverns asked how the dollar mount in the Ambulance Fund is raised if there are no monies raised to fund it. Tom Butkiewicz stated that expenses reimbursed from customers and services replenish the fund.

Skip continued to ask for an explanation Tom Butkiewicz explained that the money is reimbursed and collected at the end of the year.

Moderator stated that the question has been answered.

Jaye Vilchok stated that the previous question had be answered and asked that someone post the figure on the Town website. He then asked for the balance of the Ambulance Fund. He then asked if the transport fees have changed. Matt Shirland replied no, they had not. Jaye then asked if they are to be changed. Chief Curry stated that they will be looking at the fees.

Jaye Vilchok asked if a State Inspection had been done on the new ambulance. Matt Shirland stated that it had, and that the ambulance is in service.

Sandra Vilchok if any deficiencies had been found during the inspection. Selectman Shirland stated that none were found

Skip Seaverns asked how it was funded. Moderator Fernald stated that it had answered adequately by Tom Butkiewicz.

Jaye Vilchok asked that it be posted on the Town website and requested that of the Town Administrator.

Moderator then stated that Article 4 be placed on the ballot as written.

The Moderator then began to read Article #5.

Steve Welch then asked to invoke RSA 40:10 on Article #4. Maureen Campiola seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Moderator Fernald then read Article #5 in full as follows:

Article #5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Fire Vehicle/SCBA Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.12 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (11-0)

Town of Nottingham, NH
Deliberative Session Minutes - Saturday, February 3, 2024

Selectman Shirland spoke to the Article stating that this was the standard amount requested each year.

Jaye Vilchok asked if the amount of \$100,000 has been reviewed for inflation. Matt Shirland stated that yes, the fund was reviewed and is based on current status of vehicles. He also stated that this fund will be raised to \$125,000 next year.

Gary Anderson asked if this line is in the CIP for the next vehicle. Matt Shirland stated that Tanker One will be next for 2025 and that the life expectancy for the current tanker is 2026.

Sandra Vilchok asked for the current balance in the fund. Matt Shirland stated it was \$113,000 at the end of Q3/23. He then updated that it was currently \$114,391.

Skip Seaverns spoke about the difference in a Revolving Fund and a Reserve Fund and explained the difference.

Matt Shirland stated that \$300,000 was in a CD and \$414,000 was available right now.

Sandra Vilchok asked for the date of the balance. Matt Shirland stated that the exact number was \$414,392 at the end of 2023.

Moderator stated that Article 5 would be placed on the ballot as written.

John Morin invoked RSA 40:10, Owen Friend-Gray seconded the motion and the motion carried by handcard vote.

Moderator Fernald read Article #6 as follows:

Article #6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$60,000 (Sixty Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of increasing the Fire Chief stipend for the remainder of 2024 with the estimated yearly stipend in 2025 to be \$71,440, and all future costs to be included in the annual budget and default budget going forward. This increase is based on the increased minimum mandated qualifications of Chief, as set forth by the Nottingham Fire Rescue Department (NFRD) Bylaws. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.07 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The Budget Committee DOES NOT recommend this appropriation (8-3)

Selectboard Member Matt Shirland presented the Article. He noted that this was a year stipend of approximately \$34 per hour and not a salary.

Vicky Greene asked about the difference of a salary vs. a stipend and why this was to be given to an appointed position and that it seemed excessive.

Tom Butkiewicz stated he did some salary research, and that Deerfield had a much lower amount. Matt Shirland stated that research was done considering several neighboring towns.

Kathy Mayo asked what the current stipend was. Matt Shirland stated \$11,440.

Jaye Vilchok stated stipends are used for Raymond, Epping, Northwood, and Durham. Skip Seaverns asked for a possible amendment. The Moderator stated that a change to \$0 does not change the current stipend.

Skip Seaverns then submitted his amended Article #6 and the Moderator read it as follows:

Article #6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$0 (Sixty Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of increasing the Fire Chief stipend for the remainder of 2024 with the estimated yearly stipend in 2025 to be \$11,440, and all future costs to be included in the annual budget and default budget going forward. This increase is based on the increased minimum mandated qualifications of Chief, as set forth by the Nottingham Fire Rescue Department (NFRD) Bylaws. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.07 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

John Decker seconded the motion.

Tom Butkiewicz was in support of the amendment.

Alana Kenney spoke against amending the article and stated that the Fire Chief deserved a lot more money.

Vicky Greene said that people were comparing apples and oranges as salaried, and stipends are two different things. She did not like the proposed change of \$0 but would like it worded to read up to \$60,000.

Jamie Burleigh stated that the number of hours were on call 24/7 or part time.

Moderator Fernald stated that this was not a salaried amount but up to that amount to explore options.

Jamie asked if the current Chief is responsible 24/7 or on call. Matt Shirland noted that the Police Chief is on call 24/7 365 days per year, but that does not mean they cannot be other places or delegate duties.

Sandra Vilchok asked if a defined schedule will be done. She also asked for stipend and part time to be defined.

The Moderator asked if this would give them the opportunity to explore options. Matt Shirland confirmed that it would.

John Morin stated that they were looking for a Full Time Fire Chief and options are available depending upon the applicants. The money needs to be set aside to explore the process and that the amount will not be exceeded.

John Decker was in support of the amendment but found the warrant confusing stating the Budget Committee did not recommend it as it is not clear enough.

Jaye Vilchok stated that Selectman Morin is circumventing the public and asked if there is description written for the position.

Town of Nottingham, NH
Deliberative Session Minutes - Saturday, February 3, 2024

Matt Shirland stated that the description is in the bylaws of the Fire Departments and RSA 154 states that appointments are paid via stipends.

The Moderator notified those in attendance that we cannot speak to things we are not notified about and asked for no further discussion.

Alana Kenney stated that she does not support the amendment as it is not fair and not an appropriate amount.

The Moderator then asked for a vote on the amendment to Article 6 by handcard vote.

The vote was YES 36, NO 78. The motion failed.

John Decker then asked to amend the article for the sum of \$20,000 to increase the stipend to \$31,440. Dee Ann Decker seconded the motion.

Dee Ann asked for clarification for the current Fire Chief or to explore finding a new Fire Chief in the future. Matt Shirland stated that Matt Curry is Chief, as is. This will be used as an incentive moving forward.

The Moderator put the amended article forward to a vote.

Sandra Vilchok asked if the current Fire Chief is a town employee. Matt Shirland stated that he is appointed.

Tom Butkiewicz asked if he was part time or receiving other monies.

Moderator Fernald then read amended Article #6 as follows:

Article #6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 (Sixty Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of increasing the Fire Chief stipend for the remainder of 2024 with the estimated yearly stipend in 2025 to be \$31,440, and all future costs to be included in the annual budget and default budget going forward. This increase is based on the increased minimum mandated qualifications of Chief, as set forth by the Nottingham Fire Rescue Department (NFRD) Bylaws. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.07 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The motion failed by handcard vote.

Steve Welch asked to invoke RSA 40:10, John Morin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Brian Spagna motioned that Citizen Petition Warrant Article #21 to be heard out of order.

Teresa Bascom stated that the town has never moved warrant articles out of order, and she would like to proceed in order.

Gary Anderson seconded the motion. The motion failed by handcard vote.

Moderator Fernald then announced the meeting would resume after a short break.

Moderator called the meeting to order after the break.

The Moderator then read Article 7 as follows:

Article #7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 (Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of replacing the flooring in the Community Center gymnasium. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.03 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (11-0)

Tim Dabrieo presented the Article stating that a portion of the gym floor had been ripped up due to plumbing issues and that the floor was cracked, and the gym receives a lot of use for Pickleball, Karate, etc. He stated that a floor would be laid over the current floor.

Jeff Gurrier teaches Pickleball and stated that the floor is dangerous and that this is warranted to be done.

Sandra Vilchok asked if fees are charged for use of the gym.

Kortney Dorow Duball, Director of Parks and Recreation was asked to speak. She stated that fees are collected from some community groups, but not all.

Sandra Vilchok asked if any of the fees collected will be used for the repairs. Tim Dabrieo stated that they will not be using funds from the Rec Revolving Fund.

Teresa Bascom stating that more should be paying for use of the facilities. She also heard talk of the building being taken down.

Ben Bartlett stated that would be done decades away from now.

Gary Anderson stated the reason the tile was removed for plumbing issues, were to correct them for the whole building, not only the gym.

Moderator Fernald motioned to place Article 7 on the ballot as written.

Matt Shirland invoked RSA 40:10. Charlotte Fyfe seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Moderator Fernald then read Article #8 as follows:

Article #8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 (Forty Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of exploratory options and design for the relocation of the Police Department. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.05 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (11-0)

Selectman Dabrieo explained that the Facilities Assessment Committee scope of work. He stated that the operation of the Police Department was going through the accreditation process and that the funds would

Town of Nottingham, NH
Deliberative Session Minutes - Saturday, February 3, 2024

not be applied to the facility as it currently stands. There is a process and cost in hopes of putting a new Police Station beside the Fire Department, to the right. This is to assess the potential of doing so, and to see if it is the best location, etc.

Chief Woodman spoke stating that the current location has many issues, and they are exploring options and coming up with a vision. There are currently 8 full time and one part time Officers, and no space to do what they need to do. She also stated that the Recreation Department uses the building with children at the Town Hall and that the visitors to the Police Department make it inappropriate for them to be connected.

Gary Anderson spoke for the Facilities Committee stating that deficiencies were of space and most importantly, safety issues. The Police Department space was at the top of the list in their report.

Skip Seaverns asked if there will be a Building Committee put together made up of volunteers, as has been done in the past.

Sandra Vilchok asked who drew up the drawings, who designed them. John Moring stated that the drawing is just an area that has been proposed.

Sandra Vilchok asked who make the drawing. Was this done at the time the Fire Department was built. Time Dabrieo stated that yes, this was done back then.

Moderator asked if there were any other questions. None were made and she moved Article #8 to the ballot as written.

Time Dabrieo invoked RSA 40:10, John Morin seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Moderator Fernald then read Article #9 as follows:

Article #9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand Dollars) to begin work on the cleanup and renovations needed to the rear community center building. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the work is complete or not later than one year after the end of fiscal year 2024, whichever occurs earlier. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.06 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (9-2)

Tim Dabrieo presented the article stating that the renovation to the rear of the Community Center would cap off electrical, take care of rodent infestation, mitigate mold, and gutting it. The warrant last year was used to hire a Facilities Manager who will focus on researching companies that can do the work.

Gary Anderson stated that this is a high priority area that the Facilities Committee saw. Structural Engineering evaluation had been done approximately 8 years ago and that that area could be salvaged and brought up to code, but in the future. Mitigation is warranted at this time.

Skip Seaverns stated that the same conclusion was reached 15 years ago but the money was not warranted as that was an addition to the school built in 1972. He suggested tearing it down for the health and safety of the people working in the Town Hall.

Merrill Dwyer asked if asbestos was in that part of the building. Tim Dabrieo said that they were unsure.

The Moderator placed Article 9 as written on the ballot.

Tim Dabrieo invoked 40:10, Charlotte Fyfe seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The Moderator then read Article 10 as follows:

Article #10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 (Twenty Thousand Dollars) to begin work on the reconfigured parking lot at the library, and also address safety concerns such as parking lot lighting and improving walkways. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.02 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The Budget Committee DOES NOT recommend this appropriation (6-5)

Tim Dabrieo presented the article. He asked Jen Phillips, Library Trustee to speak.

Jen Phillips stated that in 2023 the money to start reconfiguring the park lot was raised, It was found unsafe due to line of sight, crumbling pavement, and insufficient parking. A 2023 survey conceptual design and estimate was done and completed in December.

No questions nor discussion took place.

The Moderator moved the article as written to the ballot.

Tim Dabrieo invoked RSA 40:10, Charlotte Fyfe seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Moderator Fernald then read Article #11 aloud as follows:

Article #11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 (One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Town Building Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.18 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (11-0)

Ben Bartlett spoke about appropriating the monies for Town Building Maintenance. He said that the amount was increased from last year and was a good starting amount.

Skip Seaverns asked if it were for special items in the CIP. Ben stated it was not based on what was in the CIP.

Tim Dabrieo stated that it was for unexpected expenses.

Town of Nottingham, NH
Deliberative Session Minutes - Saturday, February 3, 2024

Ben Bartlett invoked RSA 40:10, Jeff Morrison seconded, and the motion passed.

Moderator Fernald then read Article #12.

Article #12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Dollars) for highway reconstruction and maintenance on town roads to include but not limited to paving approaches on dirt roads throughout town as prioritized by the Highway Director, pave a section of Priest Road up to the rear access road to the Fire Station, and Stevens Hill Road from Deerfield Road to the existing pavement. The sum of \$150,300 (One Hundred Five Thousand Three Hundred Dollars) is to come from unassigned fund balance. The balance of \$349,700 (Three Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars) to be raised by taxation. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the work is complete or not later than one year after the end of fiscal year 2024, whichever occurs earlier. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.42 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (6-5)

Selectman Bartlett asked to amend the Article so that the written number of One Hundred Five Thousand Three Hundred Dollars to One Hundred Fifty Thousand Three Hundred Dollars to agree with the numeral dollar amount.

Article #12 as amended:

Article #12: *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Dollars) for highway reconstruction and maintenance on town roads to include but not limited to paving approaches on dirt roads throughout town as prioritized by the Highway Director, pave a section of Priest Road up to the rear access road to the Fire Station, and Stevens Hill Road from Deerfield Road to the existing pavement. The sum of \$150,300 (One Hundred **Fifty** Thousand Three Hundred Dollars) is to come from unassigned fund balance. The balance of \$349,700 (Three Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars) to be raised by taxation. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the work is complete or not later than one year after the end of fiscal year 2024, whichever occurs earlier. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.42 per \$1,000 of property valuation.*

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (6-5)

The article, as amended, passed by a handcard vote.

Ben then stated that the yearly article is higher, and that some of the funds from unassigned balance will be used to cover some of the costs that the Highway Director assessed.

Skip Seaverns asked if the upcoming bridge replacement may affect this. Ben Bartlett stated that the purpose was not for bypass during the bridge replacement, but to repair the road.

Article #12 was then placed on the ballot per the Moderator.

John Decker asked if the amendment was approved, and the Moderator stated that it was.

The Moderator then motioned to place Article #12, as amended, on the ballot.

Matt Shirland called to invoke RSA 40:10. Charlotte Fyfe seconded the motion.

Moderator Fernald then read Article #13 as follows:

Article #13: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.12 per \$1,000 of property valuation.
The Select Board recommends this appropriation (4-1)
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (11-0)

Ben Bartlett then spoke about the article, stating that items such as these come up through CIP and are on the ballot each year.

Sandra Vilchok noted that one of the Selectboard members voted against this and wanted to know why.

Ben Bartlett stated that he voted against it as there is a \$146,000 in reserve. He would like to leave it up to the Highway Director, and then motioned to amend the article to \$0.

The motioned failed by handcard vote.

Moderator Fernald then motioned that Article #13 be moved to the ballot.

John Morin invoked RSA 40:10, Owen Friend-Gray seconded the motion.

The Moderator then read Article #14 as follows:

Article #14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 (Twenty Thousand Dollars) to be added to the previously established Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of performing a statutory revaluation of property every five years. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.02 per \$1,000 of property valuation.
The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (8-3)

Steve Welch stated that this type of request was made most years in order to fund the re-evaluation process when scheduled.

After no further discussion, the Moderator motioned to move Article #14 to the ballot.

Steve Welch invoked RSA 40:10 on Article #14, Tim Dabrieo seconded the motion.

The Moderator then read Article #15 as follows:

Town of Nottingham, NH
Deliberative Session Minutes - Saturday, February 3, 2024

Article #15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$24,375 (Twenty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars) to provide financial support to the following social service organizations that provide a service to the residents in the Town of Nottingham:

Cornerstone VNA	\$2,400
Lamprey Health Care	\$4,500
Seacoast Mental Health	\$1,000
Waypoint (Child & Family Services)	\$3,000
Haven	\$1,450
AIDS Response Seacoast	\$575
CASA	\$500
RSVP - Friends Program	\$100
SNHS Community Action Program	\$5,500
Rockingham County Nutrition/Meals on Wheels	\$1,500
Area Homecare/Family	\$1,100
Child Advocacy Center	\$1,250
Ready Rides	\$1,500

Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$.03 per \$1,000 of property valuation.
The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (8-2-1)

John Morin stated that to meet the 4% tax cap, the Board of Selectman had to remove something out of the General Operating Budget.

Skip Seaverns asked if the town had received letters asking for these programs to be supported by the town. Selectman Morin stated that yes, the town had received them.

Tom Butkiewicz asked for clarification on the sources of the funds these organizations receive.

Chelli Tennis stated that donations are made to these services that community members use. If they are taken out of the Budget, then people who are in need, will not have them available and the funds will have to come from somewhere else in the budget.

The Moderator moved Article #15 to the ballot.

Tim Dabrieo invoked RSA 40:10, which was seconded by John Morin.

Moderator Fernald then read Article #16 as follows:

Article #16: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) to be added to the Invasive Species Prevention and Eradication Removal Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Majority vote required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.01 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (6-5)

Tom Duffy presented the Article and spoke about invasive species. He noted that since 2015 Pawtuckaway Lake has had a history of issues with milfoil, and how quickly and easily it spreads. He stated that the funds serve all ponds in Nottingham and that a large patch in front of the town beach was found this past year. He asked to post a video about the situation on the town website as there were issues with the video that he wished to show the attendees.

Mr. Duffy then showed a slideshow. Of note, 15 gallons of milfoil were removed in 2017. . In 2023 they removed 670 gallons. It moved by the wind and can grow in 14' of water.

In 2020 removal efforts included 1,000 hours of divers and weed watchers. The State of New Hampshire contributed \$46,000 to treat 3 sections with herbicide. John Morin noted that the state will not und these efforts in the future. Mr. Duffy noted that the state will treat with herbicide every 5 years if needed. John Morin then stated that it is inevitable that the problem will not go way and that it will affect the Lamprey River Watershed.

After no further discussion, Article #16 was moved to the ballot by the Moderator.

John Morin then invoked RSA 40:10, and Charlotte Fyfe seconded the motion.

The Moderator then read Article #17 as follows:

Article #17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 (Five Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of conducting courtesy inspections of boats using the State Boat Launch at Fundy Boat Ramp and the Pawtuckaway State Park Boat Ramps on Pawtuckaway Lake to remove fragments of exotic invasive aquatic species and to educate the public on how to prevent the spread of exotic species from water body to water body. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is less than \$.01 per \$1,000 of property valuation.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (8-3)

John Morin stated that this was additional monies for the Lake Host Program. He stated that this will help to prevent all invasive species, e.g., snails and water chestnuts, as well as milfoil.

Dee Ann Decker stated that there be an amendment to the article to add “and to request permission to inspect and remove materials...” As the former Lake Host Chair, she stated that they hosts are not currently able to remove any invasives without permission and that this is for clarification only. Bruce Hendon seconded the motion.

Town of Nottingham, NH
Deliberative Session Minutes - Saturday, February 3, 2024

The motion carried by a handcard vote.

The article then read as follows:

*Article #17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 (Five Thousand Dollars) for the purpose of conducting courtesy inspections of boats using the State Boat Launch at Fundy Boat Ramp and the Pawtuckaway State Park Boat Ramps on Pawtuckaway Lake **and to request permission to remove suspicious materials** and to educate the public on how to prevent the spread of exotic species from water body to water body. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is less than \$.01 per \$1,000 of property valuation.*

Dee Ann then stated that the Lake Host program also receives grant funding.

Steve Welch invoked RSA 40:10, John Decker seconded the motion and the motion carried.

The Moderator then read Article #18 as follows:

Article #18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,500 (Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars) for the purpose of purchasing a new ballot machine. The Town will be applying for aid to offset the cost of this purchase. The final amount used is subject to receipt of any state or federal grant or aid. If grant or other aid is not received, the total sum of \$7,500 is to be raised by taxation. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.01 per \$1,000 of property valuation. The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)
The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (6-5)

Steve Welch stated that the current ballot counting device will no longer be supported.

Lori Anderson stated that the Board of Selectmen voted that Nottingham is to use electronic ballot counting devices at some point in the 1990s. Since that time, we have been using the Accuvote machine and that the State has tentatively approved two other ballot counting devices. She noted that she and Dawn Fernald had seen a demonstration of one the units and stated some of its features. She also noted that HAVA funds may be available from the state in order to defray costs.

Tom Butkiewicz spoke in opposition of the purchase.

Hal Rafter, resident and current State Rep for Nottingham stated that the state is willing to use up to \$3 million of the existing HAVA funds for the purchase of new ballot counting devices, poll books, and laptops. He noted that this had 85% approval in the legislature.

The article was moved to the ballot by the Moderator.

Steve Welch asked to invoke RSA 40:10, Gary Anderson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The Moderator then read Article #19 as follows:

Article #19: To see if the Town will vote to approve the readoption of the All Veteran's Tax Credit (RSA 72:28-b). The readoption of the All Veteran's Tax Credit, if approved would continue to offer a \$750.00 tax credit to all honorably discharged veterans that qualify under the current requirements and as of April

1, 2023, would expand the eligibility requirements to include those individuals that have not yet been discharged from active service. Majority vote required.

Steve Welch noted that they are asking approval of the town as there was a clerical correction. It was to fix an error from last year.

Kathy Mayo supported the article and stated that we should be supporting all veterans.

Sandi Neff proposed an amendment regarding the definition of the term 'current veterans'. The Moderator spoke with Attorney Lowry, who stated that the article is written as proscribed by law. Sandi's amendment was then withdrawn.

Teresa Bascom asked why we were re-adopting this. Steve Welch stated that it was to correct a clerical error.

Moderator Fernald motion to move Article #19 to the ballot as written.

Time Dabrieo invoked RSA 40:10 and Jeff Morrison seconded the motion

Article #20 was then read by the Moderator as follows:

Article #20: To see if the Town will vote to change the name and the purpose of the existing Centennial Fund created in 2013 to the Celebrate Nottingham Fund for the purpose of townwide celebrations to include but not limited to future anniversary celebrations (i.e.: 325th), and to authorize the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend. 2/3 vote required.

The Select Board recommends this appropriation (5-0)

The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation (9-2)

Steve Welch stated that the Tri-Centennial Fund was not accessible for the new Celebrate Nottingham committee. This will allow it to be used for future town events including the 325th anniversary of the Town.

Steve Soreff spoke in support of the article, stating that the 300th Anniversary brought the town together and there was tradition enjoyed by everyone.

Merrill Dwyer asked for the balance of the fund. Steve Welch stated that the current balance is \$42,769.

Skip Seaverns asked if other options can be used for this money.

John Morin said that donations raised the money, people in the town donated. The use of the money will benefit the town.

Skip asked if there was no other way to get access to the funds.

Tom Butkiewicz asked for the amount appropriated through warrant articles. Steve Welch stated \$45,000.

Tom Butkiewicz suggested that these funds be returned to the General Fund.

Town of Nottingham, NH
Deliberative Session Minutes - Saturday, February 3, 2024

Tim Dabrieo said that would repurpose the funds, or a new Warrant Article could expend them to the General Fund.

Alana Kenney spoke in support of the activities that came about from the funds and would like to amend it to say 'including bonfires, fireworks, and future celebrations.

Steve Welch states that those activities are currently included but not limited to those actions

Article was then placed on the ballot by the Moderator as originally worded.

Steve Welch invoked RSA 40:10, Owen Friend-Gray seconded the motion.

Article #21 was then read by the Moderator.

Article #21: Harbor Street Limited Partnership, Joseph Falzone, Manager, formally requested through this petition (per RSA 674:40-a), the Town of Nottingham's acceptance of "Maple Ridge Road" of the Maple Ridge Subdivision. With the acceptance, the ownership of this road will be transferred to the Town of Nottingham. (By citizen petition).

Brian Spagna of Maple Ridge Road stated that the project for this development began in 2016 and that 42 homes were built. There was a topcoat of paving laid by the developer.

Skip Seaverns asked if the Planning Board had accepted the road.

John Morin stated that yes, they had.

Jaye Vilchok as if a fire protection cistern has been approved.

Alana Kenney said that the engineering firm has not given final approval and that Mr. Falzone has not received is escrow money back.

John Morin stated that some amendments will need to be made in order for Mr. Falzone to receive his escrow.

Mike Merrill spoke in support. He stated that this road is sandwiched between 2 public road and used as a cut through by the town Road Department.

Skip Seaverns asked if this should be amended upon completion guidance.

Tim Dabrieo clarified that it is a Citizen's Petition that Skip was asking to amend. Attorney Lowry stated that was acceptable.

The Article was then amended to read as follows:

*Article #21: Harbor Street Limited Partnership, Joseph Falzone, Manager, formally requested through this petition (per RSA 674:40-a), the Town of Nottingham's acceptance of "Maple Ridge Road" of the Maple Ridge Subdivision. With the acceptance, the ownership of this road will be transferred to the Town of Nottingham, **upon approval of the Town engineering firm.** (By citizen petition).*

Skip Seaverns motioned to accept the amended article, and John Decker seconded the motion.

Mike Merrill said that the road was constructed per the specs.

Skip Seaverns said that as long as they are certified and meet the requirements of the Town in the end, it should meet the 2016 requirements.

Merrill Dwyer asked if this was automatic. Tim Dabrieo said that no, it will need to be requested.

A handcard vote was taken of Article #21, as amended, and it passed.

After no further discussion, the Moderator moved Article #21, as amended to the ballot.

Tim Dabrieo invoked RSA 40:10 and was seconded by Jeff Morrison.

Article #22 was then read by the Moderator.

Article #22: To transact any other business, which may legally come before this meeting.

Tom Butkiewicz stated that we should commend Chief Jaye Vilchok for his many years of service. The Moderator then thanked Tom for his statement.

Doug Bates said that he had some new business. The Moderator then consulted with the Town Attorney.

The Moderator stated that Mr. Bates may make a statement but that no actions could be taken or voted down.

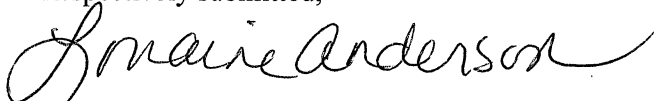
Doug Bates then stated that the decision of the New Hampshire Right to Know Ombudsman's request made by him was dismissed and that the redactions should be removed.

Kathy Mayo asked if the tax impact on all of the Articles was available. No answer was given.

Susan Mooney motioned to adjourn. All in attendance agreed.

Moderator Fernald then reminded everyone that the Town Election would be held on March 12, 2024.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lorraine Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lorraine Anderson, Town Clerk