

**Minutes**  
**Nottingham Selectmen's Meeting**  
**April 23, 2012**

6:30 PM Chair Bonser opened the meeting and asked all those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Mary Bonser, Hal Rafter and Mark Carpenter.

Guests: Dawn Wirkkala, John Regan, Kyle Tasker and Peter Perron.

Others: Town Administrator Charles Brown and Heidi Seaverns.

Mr. Brown introduced Dawn Wirkkala to the Selectmen. She has accepted the position in the Selectmen's office. Mr. Brown stated he had received 20 applications in response to the posting for the job. From those 20 applicants, he interviewed 7 individuals. He had Ms. Carlson & Ms. Seaverns sit in on a couple of the interviews. He then narrowed the field down to 4 candidates, any of whom could have filled the position. After further review, he interviewed the remaining two candidates over the phone and checked additional references. After speaking with the last person that Ms. Wirkkala's had listed, Mr. Brown offered the job to her. Ms. Wirkkala worked for Department of Revenue Administration for many years. Mr. Brown had provided a copy of her resume to the selectmen prior to this meeting. Members of the BOS welcomed Ms. Wirkkala to Town.

**Motion:** Rafter, second Carpenter to accept Mr. Brown's recommendation of Dawn Wirkkala for the position of Office Assistant/Secretary II.

**Vote:** 3-0 in favor.

Ms. Wirkkala thanked the Board and then left the meeting. She will start in the office on Tuesday morning.

Regarding outstanding minutes,

**Motion:** Rafter, second Carpenter to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2012 meeting as written.

**Vote:** 3-0 in favor.

The Board will act on the April 9<sup>th</sup> minutes at their next meeting.

Mr. Brown then went through a department update for the Board. Mr. Brown has spoken with the Police Chief in regard to the agreement that DOT has requested be signed by the BOS. The Police Chief had explained to Mr. Brown that by signing this agreement, the Town's liability during the project is alleviated. This item will be addressed again when the BOS reviews the signature file. Mr. Brown informed the Board that he had attended the service for Greenland Police Chief Michael Maloney on Thursday, April 19. He explained that several members of the Nottingham Police Department attended calling hours on Wednesday and the remainder of the department had gone to the service on Thursday. Chief Foss had participated in the honor guard for the Chief prior to the services-officers took 4 hour shifts standing with Chief Maloney's casket. Mr. Brown commented on what a well managed event it was. Chief Foss had expressed the same opinion. The Board discussed making a contribution to the Maloney fund on behalf of the Town.

**Motion:** Bonser, second Rafter to make a donation to the Chief Maloney fund for an amount between \$250-\$500 (based on budgetary numbers).

**Vote:** 3-0 in favor.

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Mr. Carpenter reminded everyone that next time you see a Police or Fire department member thank them for their service. They put their lives on the line everyday and it sometimes takes a horrible incident like this to remind everyone.

There were no updates from the Fire Department. The department continues to receive resumes; they will be accepted until Wednesday April 25, 2012 at noon.

The Highway department is stockpiling material for their construction project this summer.

There were a couple of issues that resulted from tree removal along the roads, but the Road Agent took care of them over the weekend.

The Recreation department ran a program today with the bounce houses (School vacation week).

The play was a success over the weekend, as well.

Mr. Brown informed the Board that he had spoken with Attorney Teague in regard to the Historical Society. It is Attorney Teague's opinion that the Society should not disband. He feels that they can get their 501c3 status reinstated with a large part or the entire fee waived. One of the Library Trustees has volunteered to help them get the paperwork started to reinstate the 501c3 status. Attorney Teague does not think that the Society should come under the umbrella of the Town. They are a private organization. They can amend/update their bylaws to reflect the changes they want. Chair Bonser will contact Rhoda Capron for an update on the 501c3 process. Mr. Brown is working on a memo to send to everyone that attended the meeting at the beginning of the month to update them on the status.

Chair Bonser recognized John Reagan & Kyle Tasker. The Board had asked them to come to the meeting to discuss the NH House redistricting plan. Representative Reagan explained the current plan is being reviewed by the Department of Justice. They are accepting comments on it however; the plan must be in place by June 6 in order to allow time for overseas ballots to be mailed out. Under the current plan, there are 5 representatives from our district which is made up of Nottingham, Deerfield, Candia & Northwood. There will be 1 floterial representative, 3 at large representatives and Northwood will have its own representative. The alternative plan allowed for Nottingham to have its own representative but this plan will not stand up to federal review as it exceeds the 5% deviation rule. Even though the NH State Constitution states that each Town should have their own representative, the federal law that governs these issues in NH only allows for a 5% deviation (Nottingham's population as compared to the districts total population) and Nottingham's population as compared to the overall is about 6%. If a Town or City wants to challenge the current redistricting plan, they would have to challenge in a federal court and present a better redistricting plan for the whole state and also provide proof that it is the better plan. Mr. Rafter indicated that Manchester has just filed suit contesting the current plan. If NH had adopted the Motor Voter rule, there would be no federal interference with our districting plan. The Motor Voter rule allows for someone to be able to register to vote when you register your vehicle. Chair Bonser asked the representatives for comment on the Senate redistricting plan. The only comment was that Senator Barnes would be Nottingham's Senator going forward, not Senator Groen. Chair Bonser asked when the NH State Primary was. It was determined that the Primary is on September 11, 2012. Discussion then turned to water legislation and the Board's desire to get legislation on the books that would give some control of large groundwater withdrawals to the Towns, not just DES (Department of Environmental Services). Representative Tasker volunteered to contact the Legislative research department to start looking for legislation along that line. It was decided that each member of the BOS should email Mr. Brown 2-3 important points that need to be included in the legislation and he will

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forward the information to Representative Tasker. The Board thanked both Mr. Tasker & Mr. Reagan for coming in and they left at 7:25PM.

Mr. Rafter stated that the current plan violates the NH Constitution and he would like Nottingham to challenge it through the courts along with other towns in the area. He will follow up with the other towns in the area and report back to the Board at their next meeting on May 7, 2012.

Chair Bonser then recognized Peter Perron from the School Board. He stepped forward to address the Board. He explained that he was in attendance representing the School Board to discuss a joint Board meeting. Both boards are anxious to open the lines of communication between them and they want to start meeting jointly. The next School Board meeting is on May 2, 2012 and it was decided that the May 21, 2012 Selectmen's meeting would be a good date for the first meeting. Discussion centered on topics that the Boards would discuss-the 2 boards are trying to build a sense of community, space utilization, the possibility of combined bulk purchasing between the School & Town and the cable channel upgrade. Mr. Carpenter has drafted a specification sheet for the cable channel upgrade with input from Brian McClelland and Michelle Carvalho & others. Mr. Rafter asked what direction the School Board planned to go with the addition. Mr. Perron stated that the School Board was planning to develop a charge for the Building Committee at their next meeting so they would have the information for their joint meeting and that could be an item of discussion as well. The School Board will invite Principal Carvalho & Superintendent Ludwell to the joint board meeting. Mr. Perron thanked the Board for their time and left at 7:55PM.

The Police Chief is applying for a grant to have the officers perform Highway Safety details on Route 4. As part of the application process, he has determined that the Town needs to have a Highway Safety Committee in order to apply. The Committee is made up of three members with the Chairman as the contact person.

**Motion:** Rafter, second Carpenter to establish a Highway Safety Committee made up of Police Chief, Road Agent and a Selectmen representative Rafter.

**Vote:** 3-0 in favor.

The Board next addressed the signature file.

The Board acted on a request from the Conservation Commission for appointment of members,

**Motion:** Rafter, second Carpenter to appoint Noel Carlson as a three year regular member and Raelene Shippee-Rice as an alternate member for a 3 year term.

**Vote:** 3-0 in favor. The letter that requested the appointments also thanked the BOS for the support of the purchasing of the Tasker & Merriam Daggett properties. It stated that the Commission would not be using the Conservation Fund for any outright purchases of land. Money would be used to assist landowners in putting their land into easements-survey costs, etc. In regard to the Route 4 paving project agreement,

**Motion:** Rafter, second Carpenter to sign the work zone agreement with NH DOT for the Route 4 paving project.

**Vote:** 3-0 in favor.

The Board members reviewed bills, signed the manifests and also initialed the new salary histories for all employees.

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Mr. Carpenter has prepared a detailed specification sheet for the cable channel upgrade. He has incorporated the suggestions he has received from town's people & the School. The idea is to address the quality issues and obtain equipment that will handle the second channel once the initial upgrade has been done. There are viewer requirements, operator requirements & technology requirements in the document. Mr. Carpenter will make the final edits and the document will be sent out to vendors on Wednesday or Thursday this week.

8:14 PM **Motion:** Bonser, second Rafter to enter non-public under RSA 91-A: 3 II (a).

**Vote:** Rafter – yea, Carpenter – yea, Bonser – yea. 3-0 in favor.

8:20PM **Motion:** Bonser, second Rafter to come out of non-public session and return to regular session.

**Vote:** 3-0 in favor.

**Motion:** Bonser, second Rafter to keep all non-public discussion sealed.

**Vote:** 3-0 in favor.

During non-public session, the Board acted on a salary increase for an employee.

Having no further business,

8:22 PM **Motion:** Carpenter, second Rafter to adjourn.

**Vote:** 3-0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Seaverns

**Approved as Amended**  
**5/7/12**