

Minutes
Nottingham Selectmen's Workshop
October 17, 2012

8:00 PM Chair Bonser opened the workshop.

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

Others: Charles A. Brown, Town Administrator, Dawn Wirkkala, Secretary,

General Business and Department Reports:

The Selectmen discussed the plan for reviewing and completing the 2013 proposed budgets.

Mr. Brown reviewed the notice of health insurance premium changes, which increased by approximately 19.1% from the previous year. Mr. Brown stated he has contacted the Local Government Center to determine possible options for reducing the percentage increase and would consider going out to bid for other companies and other options. In previous years the Town has increased health insurance deductibles and co-payments as a method of lowering the increase.

Mr. Carpenter stated he was concerned about the amount of legal fees and felt the Town should not always rush into seeking an opinion from the attorney on so many subjects. Chair Bonser stated there are situations that end up costing you more when you don't consult with the attorney as soon as possible. Mr. Rafter agreed that there are ways to save legal fees and they should be considered.

Discussion took place about a cost of living increase for employees. Mr. Carpenter stated he isn't insensitive to salaries, and if an increase is considered, reductions to budgets should be sought on other lines. Chair Bonser stated if there isn't a way to lower the health insurance premiums increases in salaries may not be considered.

Chair Bonser asked if there had been a comparison of salary to benefits. Mr. Brown stated he has not completed a comparison in a couple of years and Chair Bonser asked to look at a new comparison.

Concern was expressed about employee morale with no cost of living raises, but concern was also expressed about the increases in health insurance costs.

After discussion it was determined a possible salary increase of 1 1/2% to 2% would be reviewed to determine the overall budget impact. If Department Heads anticipate a cost of living increase for employees, other methods of saving money need to be considered.

Mr. Brown stated the Highway Department needs a new truck and the Fire Department will be looking for a new ambulance, but both will withdraw funds from capital reserve accounts. The Fire Department also needs a new defibrillator, at an approximate cost of \$35,000.00 that would come from the Ambulance fund.

Mr. Carpenter asked about the possibility of buying a used ambulance for a lower cost, for example a sample model.

The Fire and Highway Departments will also ask to continue the designated funds to their capital reserve accounts.

Mr. Brown stated the Police Department is planning to trade the Ford Expedition to a newer more fuel efficient Ford Explorer in their regular three year vehicle rotation plan. The Explorer can be used more as a patrol vehicle.

General discussion took place about what proposed budgets have been returned and are ready for review and which are still waiting to be received.

Mr. Brown reported the Highway Department has reduced the Construction/Reconstruction line to help keep that budget lower, and will be rebuilding the bridge in to the town sand pit.

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After discussion the decision was made to hold Selectmen and Department Head budget workshops on Monday, October 22 and Wednesday October 24, adding an additional day if necessary. The budgets are to be turned over to the Budget Committee prior to their November 8 meeting.

The Selectmen stated Department Heads should use their best efforts to reduce the budgets being requested in an effort to set an example. This should include the school budget.

Discussion returned to Salaries and Mr. Rafter stated the biggest way to save is on the personnel budget line, and if those are the cuts you make, which personnel from which departments will go.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: The Board entered non-public under RSA 91-A:3 II(a).

8:57 AM Motion: by Chair Bonser, Mr. Rafter seconded to enter non-public under RSA 91-A:3 II(a).

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

Motion: by Chair Bonser, second by Mr. Carpenter, to seal the non-public minutes.

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

No action was taken by the Selectmen during the non-public session.

9:47 AM Motion: by Chair Bonser, second by Mr. Rafter to exit non-public session.

Vote: 3 - 0 in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business,

9:50 AM Motion: Rafter, second Carpenter to adjourn.

Vote: 3 - 0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Wirkkala