

Minutes
Nottingham Selectmen's Workshop
March 4, 2015

8:30 AM Chair Carpenter opened the meeting and asked all those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Mark Carpenter, Mary Bonser and Donna Danis

Others: Chris Sterndale – Town Administrator, Dawn Calley-Murdough – Secretary, Bonnie McKinnon, Dee Ann Decker, Joanna Arendarczyk, Sandra Weston

MODERATOR/TOWN ELECTION/TOWN MEETING REVIEW:

Town Meeting: All in attendance agreed there were no controversial issues on the warrant, which should make for an easy Town Meeting.

Ms. McKinnon asked to receive the motion and second list from the Selectmen.

Discussion took place about using a projector and whether or not to show the modified warrant article after any amending motions. There was concern about once that process was started it would always be expected. The school would be contacted for use of a projector and screen.

Chair Carpenter stated he wants Mr. Sterndale to complete an overall budget review, with a PowerPoint presentation, as that helped simplify the process during the Budget Committee meeting.

Discussion took place about how Town Meeting would operate. Ms. McKinnon will complete introductions of all those speaking about the budget, including a specific introduction of Mr. Sterndale who will receive permission to speak as a non-resident. Ms. McKinnon would read the warrant article, the Selectmen will motion and second and the Selectmen or Mr. Sterndale would review any needed specific information about the warrant article, before allowing citizens to speak or ask questions.

Ms. Danis asked to recognize the retirement of Chet Batchelder from the Budget Committee. Chair Carpenter and Selectman Bonser suggested to also acknowledging the retirement of Marge Carlson and Charlie Brown. Ms. McKinnon stated she would like to mention retirement of Elaine Schmottlach, as a long time member of the Ballot Clerks. After discussion it was agreed Ms. MacKinnon would read short statements regarding the recent retirements during her opening statement.

A packet of Town Meeting information would be made available to the Moderator, including a copy of the signed Town Warrant, Town Report, budget worksheets, and any other needed information.

It was stated that any attending Budget Committee members would also sit at the head table and answer questions, if needed.

Ms. McKinnon reviewed the requirements for reconsideration and Mr. Sterndale requested to establish a specific date. Ms. McKinnon would mention the date in her opening statement.

Discussion took place about the possibility of postponing Town Meeting due to inclement weather and it was stated the decision, if needed, would be made the night before.

Discussion took place about televising Town Meeting and Ms. Calley-Murdough stated she was unsure if the school has repaired their equipment but would verify what is possible.

Ms. McKinnon stated there are not enough inspector's of the election. Ms. Decker stated there are also not enough Ballot Clerks. It was stated there were a total of twelve hours that need coverage; one person for all twelve hours, two for two separate six hour shifts, or some type of combination coverage. By law the people volunteering must be declared as a democrat or republican. After discussion it was agreed information about the needed help would be posted on the Town website and channel 22, a post made on the All Nottingham Facebook page, and a request for an email blast

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sent by Karen Davidson. Mr. Sterndale would report the names of possible volunteers to Ms. Decker for interviews.

Discussion took place about the need of the Selectmen to attend Town Election and the fact that Chair Carpenter can't attend as he is up for re-elections. Ms. Danis stated she will also have limited ability to attend during the day. The Selectmen would review the requirements for finding an alternate person and/or determine his ability to be in attendance.

Special Election: Ms. Decker asked about having reduced hours for the special primary elections with the expectation of not having many voters. Ms. Decker stated the other towns are opening at 11 am and closing at 6 pm or 7 pm.

Ms. Decker stated it is too expensive to program the electronic ballot counter and people should be prepared to manually count ballots.

Additional research was needed to determine the timeline for establishing polling hours but initial conversation seemed to indicate the polling hours could not change.

Ms. Arendarczyk asked about notifying citizens of the change in location of the November 2016 General Election. After discussion it could be mentioned and posted closer to the date of the election.

Mr. Sterndale reported set up for Town Elections would take place on Monday, March 9th.

Ms. Decker notified the Selectmen that she is concerned about the possibility of having a new, untrained, Town Clerk for Town Meeting and the upcoming special elections, if on the off chance Ms. Weston doesn't get elected. The Selectmen stated they could address the issue, if needed, after Town Elections.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business,

9:22 AM Motion: by Ms. Danis, second by Ms. Bonser to adjourn.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Calley-Murdough