

**Town of Nelson**  
**Selectmen's Meeting**  
**4:00 PM**

January 17, 2024

Executive Board Attending: Brenna Kucinski, Mike Blaudschun, Don Carlisle, Edie Drinkwater, Admin. Assist.

*Absent:*

Others attending: J. Sarcione, B. Maden, M. Pong, R. Fee, T. LaRoche

Brenna called the January 17, 2024 meeting of the Nelson Select Board to order at 4:00 PM.

- Fire Chief J. Sarcione came before the Board for a final budget review and cost analysis for the proposed dry hydrant projects to be presented at Town meeting.
  - The Fire Dept. budget remained unchanged from previous review.
  - Sarcione reported an approximate parts and equipment increase for the dry hydrants of 15%.
  - For budgeting purposes each dry hydrant is expected to cost approximately \$29,000. The Board agreed to put in two individual warrant articles and let the voters decide if they want to do just one or both at the same time.
  - Sarcione requests consideration of a compressor for just the Fire Department's use. The Board will confer with the Road Agent to see if the Highway department's compressor could be fitted to cover both departments' needs.
  - Sarcione had submitted a request for an ice auger which the Board tabled until budgets are approved. Don offered to donate a gas auger (in good condition) to the fire department. Sarcione indicated he would prefer a new battery-operated auger. Mike asked how often one has been needed and questioned why the donated unit could not work for now.
  - Sarcione reported that the tanker is out for repairs in Concord and expected to return in the next few days.

- Mike made a motion to approve the minutes for January 9, 2024 as recorded.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Mike made a motion to approve the manifest for January 17, 2024 as presented.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- The Board reviewed a bid from Hamblet Electric for new energy efficient lights for the Highway Garage. (\$6,720)

Brenna noted that the Highway crew has difficulty working on equipment with the poor lighting currently in place. She then made a motion to approve the bid for new lighting to be scheduled as soon as possible.

Mike seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Upon request of the Library Trustees, Mike made a motion to approve Hope Lothrop and Susan Meehan as Alternate Library Trustees to replace Judith Putzel and Gretchen Ezell who are stepping down.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Mike made a motion to approve an Intent to Cut for R. Rowse on Blueberry Lane in Nelson.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Stoddard Selectmen, Robert Fee and Terri LaRoche along with their Town Administrator, Michelle Pong arrived at 6:00 PM for further discussion regarding a proposal that Nelson and Stoddard consider a plan to share a Full-time Police Chief and police department.

Stoddard's questions and concerns:

- Nelson has more control over the initial plan
- Equal use of vehicles from each town to avoid "lack of use" decay
- Stoddard has separate animal control officer but Nelson does not
- Would Stoddard's animal control officer cover Nelson as part of the plan
- Why would the Full-time salary be increased to cover both towns as the job is still only 40 hours
- How many phone lines are necessary, why are they so costly
- Would there be a separate worker's comp policy covering the police department
- Stoddard includes some building costs in the Police budget how would this be addressed
- How soon would a Police Commission or Board be enacted
- Cost of prosecution from the County is different in Stoddard (higher) than Nelson
- How will the issue of differing fiscal years be reconciled
- Several areas of Stoddard do not allow Police patrols – should this be factored into shared cost
- Additional officers would be needed to receive maximum coverage - How soon – How many
- What would the terms of a contract between the towns include

● Brenna explained that the first year Nelson is taking all the risk by adding the full cost for the shared coverage to the budget to be voted on in March but two months remain without knowing if Stoddard will approve the plan at their Town meeting.

Nelson has a Police Chief who would likely apply for the Full-time position as well as a part-time department administrator. Stoddard has no one and no prospects.

Brenna indicated that a job offer to an applicant will likely include a 3-year contract.

Mike addressed the pay for covering both towns by noting a doubling of the officer's responsibility in the field as well as administrative regardless that the hours may be the same.

● Stoddard Selectmen will plan to attend the next public forum in Nelson on January 30, 2024.

● With nothing further, Mike made a motion to adjourn.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned 6:20 PM

Next regular meeting January 24, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Minutes for January 17, 2024



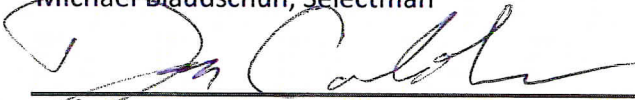
Brenna Kucinski, Chair

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Michael Blaudschun, Selectman

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Don Carlisle, Selectman

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