

Town of Nelson
Selectmen's Meeting
2:00 PM

January 23, 2024

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

Absent:

Others attending:

Brenna called the January 23, 2024 meeting of the Nelson Select Board to order at 2:00 PM.

- Mike made a motion to approve the minutes for January 17, 2024 as recorded.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Mike made a motion to approve the manifest for January 24, 2024 as presented.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Brenna made a motion to approve the Report of Excavation for the Gilsum Gravel Pit for the 2023-2024 tax year.

Mike seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- The Board picked up discussion of the options for Police coverage for Nelson. The research into different options has uncovered several items that will play a part in the cost as well as the actual coverage time if two towns agree to share a full-time Police Chief. With Stoddard currently the primary option, the matter of different fiscal years will be a consideration for funding. Nelson will hold its Town Meeting 2 months before knowing if Stoddard will approve a sharing plan with Nelson. Also, the cost accounting designated as Police Department includes additional items such as building costs in Stoddard's budgeting process. Another factor is the difference in size and population of each town. Stoddard is larger in area and has nearly twice the population of Nelson. As population plays a big role in the amount of police service needed it is likely that Stoddard will require more attention and current statistics indicate that is the case. For that reason, the allocation of cost will need to be adjusted accordingly. There is some concern regarding the amount of "On Call" coverage that will be available with two town splitting the service time. Currently, Nelson has a Police Chief who is willing to apply for a Full-time position. Given the lack of police officers available across the State and all communities competing to hire both full and part-time personnel, Nelson is in a fortunate position. While the Board agrees that Nelson having its own Police Chief offers much more to the community and remains the best option for moving into the future, they remain open and understanding of the cost concerns voiced at the first public forum and continue to move in the direction of a shared police service. Edie expressed concern over the numbers used to project cost sharing revenues to Nelson and recommends further consideration of the cost figures currently presented. Public discussion will continue on January 30, 2023 at the next forum.

● The Board began the final budget review for each department.
Brenna made a motion to approve the proposed Planning Board budget for 2024 as presented.
Mike seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

● Brenna made a motion to approve the proposed Library budget for 2024 as presented.
Mike seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

● Brenna made a motion to approve the proposed Conservation Commission budget for 2024 as presented.
Mike seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

● Brenna made a motion to approve the proposed Emergency Management budget for 2024 as presented.
Mike seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

● Brenna made a motion to approve the proposed Zoning Board budget for 2024 as presented.
Mike seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

● Brenna made a motion to approve the proposed Cemetery Board budget for 2024 as presented.
Mike seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

● Brenna made a motion to approve the proposed Agricultural Commission budget for 2024 as presented.
Mike seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

● Brenna made a motion to approve the proposed Health Officer's budget for 2024 as presented.
Mike seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

● Brenna made a motion to approve the proposed Town Clerk/Tax Collector budget for 2024 as presented.
Mike seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

● Brenna made a motion to approve the proposed Highway Department budget for 2024 as presented.
Mike seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

● Brenna made a motion to approve the proposed Administration budget for 2024 as presented.
Mike seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

● With nothing further, Brenna made a motion to adjourn.
Mike seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned 4:50 PM
Next regular meeting January 31, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Minutes for January 23, 2024

Brenna Kucinski, Chair

Michael Blaudschun, Selectman

Don Carlisle, Selectman