

Town of Nelson
Selectmen's 2nd Forum for Public Discussion
Full-Time Police Chief
7:00 PM

January 30, 2024

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

Absent:

Others attending: One member of the Stoddard Select Board and General Resident Attendance- Handouts were available to all attendees

Brenna called the audience to attention at 7:00 PM.

● Brenna presented a brief introduction of the evening's topic: Employing a Full Time Police Chief. She reviewed various elements of the Board's research: Focused on Sharing with Stoddard

- Discussion with Sullivan – They are happy with the Sheriff's Department and have a 3-year contract.
- Meeting with the Temple/Greenville Police Chief for an overview of how their community sharing works.
- Reported on the letter from NH State Police detailing the extreme shortage of officers and therefore only emergency calls can be serviced if they have an available officer in the area.
- The Sheriff's Department is in a similar situation with a shortage of officers so they can not guarantee when they would be able to fulfill a contract with a new town.
- Sharing with Stoddard would mean only 40 hours will be available to be split for both towns
- There would be no "ON CALL" time.
- Being "on-duty" would include coverage of both towns at the same time. If the officer is on patrol in Nelson and a call comes in for Stoddard he would respond directly to that call.
- Patrol times may vary between the towns regarding days of the week, time of day etc.
- Handouts detailed the number and type of calls last year in Sullivan, Nelson, and Stoddard as well as potential budget numbers.

● A resident and retired Police officer, Todd Faulkner gave the audience a lot of first-hand experience as well as cautioned that one officer covering two towns alone will find it hard to manage. He explained that a single call may result in days of follow-up and paperwork. This will mean either "Burn-out" for the officer or rapid growth of the department to remain viable.

● Nelson is in a far better position than many small towns. The department is fully equipped and has a Police Chief willing to apply for the Full-time position.

● Don spoke to some of the potential downfalls of a sharing commitment and asked the audience to think about what type of service they would like to see for their community.

● Another Nelson resident Zach Byam who is the Police Chief in Marlborough noted that the audience this evening was well informed and engaged and at this point he recommended going Full-time for Nelson alone.

Others in the audience voiced agreement.

● In closing, Brenna asked for a show of hands from those who would like a Full-time Chief to be just for Nelson.

Nearly the entire audience raised their hand.

- At 8:40 PM Brenna closed the Forum with thanks to all for attending.

Forum closed 8:40 PM

Notes from January 30, 2024

Brenna Kucinski, Chair

Michael Blaudschun, Selectman

Don Carlisle, Selectman