

**Town of Nelson**  
**Selectmen's Meeting**  
**3:00 PM**

October 18, 2023

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

*Absent:*

Others attending: J. Sarcione

Brenna called the October 18, 2023 meeting of the Nelson Select Board to order at 3:00 PM.

● The Board began discussion regarding the critical shortage of Police and Fire personal in the entire region. The State Police and County Sheriff's department are feeling the shortage and have informed all nearby communities of their inability to provide the wide backup coverage that once existed. Although they are still available for urgent calls, less serious complaints such as dog, fireworks, party noise etc. can not be a priority during current times. Often, even for a serious call, an available Trooper may be miles away in another part of the State. Neighboring towns, with active business properties, community housing, and greater populations found it necessary, several years ago, to provide full-time police departments. While certification requirements for part-time officers remain high, the certification opportunities are becoming limited due to lack of applicants, resulting in fewer classes as well as community competition to acquire any new graduates. The Nelson Select Board has been feeling concerned for some time as a more than two-year search has not resulted in the recruitment of any additional part-time officers. The Board is currently researching alternative thoughts on coverage and is considering new methods for providing broader emergency services to the town. Public meetings will be planned once a potential solution is ready for proposal.

● J. Sarcione came before the Board with an update of the Fire department. Efforts to sign up new members has proven successful with the addition of Z. Byam, J. Yardley, W. Demase, C. Durward. C. Durward holds Advanced EMT certification and the authority for some limited administration of certain drugs. This increases the response level for the rescue and the State will be notified to approve the appropriate license change. Sarcione has notified Harrisville of the improved response status of the department.

For the convenience of most, the Department meeting day has been moved from the first Thursday to the first Tuesday of each month.

Sarcione informed the Board that the department would like to seek a grant to purchase a full "Cascade Unit".

Don reminded everyone that the need for this expensive equipment had already been addressed with a solution that everyone agreed to. (only the purchase of more bottles)

Sarcione stated that although they had new bottles it is difficult to find the time to take them to be filled. Brenna advised that he delegate the task and get it done.

Sarcione then indicated that perhaps other department would not be willing to fill Nelson's bottles. The Board agreed he must just get it done.

Sarcione was told to begin to develop the necessary information for completing a warrant article for at least two dry hydrants as several property owners have now sent in permission forms.

Sarcione alerted the Board that the Fire pumper will be 25 years old in 2 years and he would like to begin planning for a new truck.

The approved hose testing was finally done, 1 line blew, many are outdated, some new has been ordered.

The utility truck door can shut enough to be used. (Following a minor accident)

Edie reminded that she found a problem with the adjuster's appraisal of the job due to a vast difference in the hourly rate calculated by the insurance company. The insurance company is willing to negotiate a revised settlement with the repair shop but the shop must call to go over the estimate. The contact information was previously given to Sarcione but to date no contact has been made with the adjuster.

Sarcione reported that he has contacted the State Fire Marshal's office on a pending investigation and was told that they have made no decision at this time and request further patience.

There was a brief flare of tempers as Sarcione became defensive that he had been questioned about the status of this matter.

There are still unanswered questions regarding the new AED unit that was found in the bushes along the Nelson Road. It is believed to belong on Engine #1 but the circumstances remain a mystery as to how it arrived there.

Sarcione requested approval for the purchase of 2 thermal image cameras at \$1500 each. This was put on hold until the completion of a pending pump test that could result in costly repairs if it fails.

He further noted that 2 new sets of gear will be needed as well as a large list of other items.

He also reported that the edge of the roof at the Granite Lake Fire Station is rotted and in need of repair.

Brenna wondered if this building is really necessary to keep and maintain. There will be further discussion on this matter.

- Mike made a motion to approve the minutes for October 10, 2023 as recorded.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 2-0. Don was absent

- Mike made a motion to approve the manifest for October 18, 2023 as presented.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Mike made a motion to approve and mail the final draft of a Thank You letter to J. Curtin for his efforts with the NH DOT following the flood event in July.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Mike made a motion to approve the installation of new lights for the Granite Lake Fire Station and to repair the faulty wiring per bid from Hamblet Electric @ \$2,626.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Brenna signed the Eversource Liaison agreement listing herself and Edie as liaisons to Eversource during an emergency.

- Following a review of submitted plans, Mike made a motion to approve a Building Permit for T. and J. Faulkner for the construction of a Greenhouse.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Based on suggestions from Don and Mike, Brenna agreed to visit Keene Signworx and McAnney signs in Swanzey to begin the designing of two "Welcome to Nelson" signs. One coming up the hill into the Village and another on the Harrisville side approaching the Village.

- Following a brief discussion regarding the danger to Granite Lake from runoff during extreme storm events, the Board agreed to send a request for mitigation funding assistance to the Nelson

Conservation Commission. A mitigation plan has begun, including some overdue State maintenance, but more is needed. A small grant could go a long way to preserve the pristine quality of the Lake. The Board believes this would be a worthwhile conservation effort.

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

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned 5:45 PM

Next meeting October 25, 2023 at 3:00 PM

Minutes for October 18, 2023

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Brenna Kucinski, Chair

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Michael Blaudschun, Selectman

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Don Carlisle, Selectman