

Town of Nelson
Selectman's Meeting
3:00 PM
December 10, 2025

Executive Board Attending: Brenna Kucinski, Mike Blaudschun, Don Carlisle; Edie Drinkwater, Administrative Assistant, absent

Others Attending: Joseph Sarcione, Fire Chief, Elaine Giacomo, Chair, Cemetery Board

At 3:05 PM Brenna Kucinski opened meeting of the Nelson Select Board.

Joe Sarcione brought the coloring contest results from the Nelson School for the Select Board to judge. There were four categories that were based on various age groups. Joe had asked the board to judge the results. The Fire Department will issue the rewards based on the board's decisions. This was a department project. Joe had picked various renditions of Christmas scenes for the children to color as they wished. The results were amazing. The judging was hard for the board as they were all good in varying ways. The board did finally judge each category with a first, second and third place winner in each category. Joe will determine at a later date when and how to present the awards. The board thought this was a great event that the Fire Department sponsored. Fostering good relations between the department and the school children.

We discussed Joe's desire for the purchase of a dryer for the department that is capable of drying 5 sets of turnouts gear at the same time. The cost is approximately \$7,500 with a \$500 cost to truck it to the department. Don encouraged him again to shop around a little more as he had found the same dryer on Amazon for \$1,000 less. The board agreed there were

reasons to go with a purchase from a local vendor but that depended on the savings. Joe will look a little more before our meeting next week. There are sufficient funds to purchase this with his current budget and still be able to return an anticipated amount of \$8,600 to the general fund. Joe also informed us that Mutual Aid was increasing its yearly fees substantially. Nelson will see an increase of \$3,700 for next year. Joe will bring his final budget in next week for discussion.

Elaine came before the board to talk about the budget for her committee as well as issues with the newly acquired Munsonville Cemetery. The Munsonville Cemetery has multiple headstones, 15 at least, that need significant repair. She has been in touch with Peterborough Marble and they estimate a cost of \$75 to \$350 depending on the amount of damage. They glue an aluminum upright on the back of badly damaged headstones. Mike questioned why they were not using Keene Monuments for the repairs and Elaine responded that Peterborough was much less expensive and responded immediately to their queries. She also noted that the area where many of the headstones have fallen over is full of sandy soil and that dirt would need to be trucked into these areas or else the headstones would likely fall over again. There is also a large tree that needs to be removed. Wilcox will remove and stump it for a reasonable fee. There is plenty of money in the Trust Fund they now have legal access to to accomplish these improvements.

Mike made a motion to approve the Wilcox removal of the tree, Brenna seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Elaine also updated us on the development of the new cemetery. Mike Tarr is working on an access road for them. They only plan to develop half of the left side of the area. Scatter gardens and extra cremation plots will be available on the right side. Some cremation plots will be available on the left side as well. Don asked what the cost per plot was and she replied \$500 up from the \$350 they used to charge.

The board then briefly discussed the cemetery budget which is essentially the same as last year.

Mike made a motion to approve the budget as presented Brenna seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

Mike made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 3, 2025, Brenna seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

Mike made a motion to approve the Manifest of December 4-10, 2025, Brenna seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

Mike made a motion to approve the Report of Cut and Certification for P. Percey, Brenna seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

Mike made a motion to approve the Report of Cut and Certification for F. Murdough, Brenna seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

After a brief discussion and finding no issues, Mike made a motion to approve the Building Permit for J. Jones, Brenna seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

After reading a letter of resignation from Wayne Kassotis, Mike made a motion with regret to accept the resignation, Brenna seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

The board was informed about an appeal to the BTLA to reopen the file on the Schillemat case. More information should be available next week when the assessor will be in Nelson.

Mike made a motion that no response was necessary to the most recent letter from David Upton, Brenna seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The board had a brief discussion of the wording for the Police Department Revolving Fund Article to be placed on the Warrant for 2026. Edie had presented us with a copy of the DRA language for this article. Mike made a motion to approve the article with the addition of the wording "No funds shall be expended without approval from the Police Chief and the Select Board." Brenna seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

There was a brief discussion of the existing Article regarding police details. This article will follow the Revolving Fund article in case that article does not pass Town Meeting. The board is in favor of increasing this amount from \$4,000 to a larger sum so that more details can be performed in any given year. Since no money is expended unless a detail is performed and, if so, the money is reimbursed, therefore there is no impact on the tax payer. Therefore, any amount can be placed in the fund. After a brief

discussion Mike made a motion to approve the article with the amended amount of \$20,000, Brenna seconded. The motion carried 3-0.

With nothing further the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Brenna Kucinski, Chair

Mike Blaudschun

Don Carlisle