

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

December 11, 2024

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

*Absent:*

Others attending: J. Filipi, J. Sarcione, W. Kassotis, M. Tarr, M. Collins, K. Rich

Brenna called the December 11, 2024 meeting of the Nelson Select Board to order at 3:00 PM.

● J. Filipi came before the Board with a revised Police department budget to include the hours needed for the Code Enforcement position covered by W. Kassotis. The Board agreed that the dog issues and Zoning violations should not be handled generally by the Police Chief. W. Kassotis has been covering this position for the past year in addition to assisting with Police Office reporting requirements and organization. The time needed has been approximately 7-8 hours weekly with about 46-48 weeks of coverage annually. This will include visiting all building permit locations for compliance with size and setbacks etc. This is especially important when a variance has been granted with stipulations of approval.

● Parking in the roadway during snow removal has become a repeated issue in some areas of Town. There was discussion whether to ticket or Tow for parking in the road during a storm and ongoing snow removal. Tickets can offer options for early payment of fines by a reduced cost however repeated offenders may leave the Police Department with no choice but to tow in dangerous situations. If the operator of the vehicle can be found then a stern warning may resolve the matter. Every situation will be different and call for different measures. This matter will be followed and discussed further if the problem continues.

3:20 PM

● Brenna made a motion to move into Non-Public session to discuss a personnel matter with W. Kassotis invited to attend.

Mike seconded.

The motion carried 3-0 by roll call vote. Mike – yes, Don – yes, Brenna – yes

3:40 PM

● Upon returning to Public session, Brenna made a motion to seal the minutes.

Mike seconded.

The motion carried 3-0 by roll call vote. Mike – yes, Don – yes, Brenna – yes

● J. Sarcione then came before the Board with the Fire Department Budget proposal. Following a line item review, Mike made a motion to approve the proposed budget at \$124,640.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Sarcione reported that the Fire Department will be offering a Community CPR course on January 18, 2025 at 9:00 AM in the meeting room at the Safety Building. Registration information will be posted on the Town website and at various location in town.

● Following a request from Sarcione, Mike made a motion to approve the purchase of radio chargers for all fire trucks in the amount of \$3,115 on the condition the purchase can be made from the current budget and paid prior to the close of the year.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Mike made a motion on a second request from Sarcione to approve the purchase of 6 Fire Department uniform jackets at a cost of \$510 also on the condition the purchase be made from the current budget and paid prior to the close of the year.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Sarcione presented the Board with a request for a used and fully equipped "Brush Truck" at a cost of approximately \$72,000 to be placed on the 2025 Warrant. Discussion then followed with details of possible repairs to the current brush truck and the current utility truck. Utility truck repairs would be in the vicinity of \$3,000 and the brush truck \$2,000-\$3,000 but would also need lights ranging from \$3,500-\$5,000. The age of these trucks and the life expectancy may make any investment questionable. Sarcione has found a 2015 flatbed truck for \$45,000 and with the complete cost to equip, the truck would be approximately \$72,000. This could then replace both the current brush and utility trucks. Sarcione strongly urges consideration of the newer truck and equipment. Mike said he could only consider this if the total funding comes from Capital Reserve. Further discussion is expected.

● Mike Tarr came before the Board with two members of the Highway Equipment Committee to discuss the current need for replacing both the Backhoe (21 years old) and Loader (32 years old). The cost for the backhoe after December 2024 would be \$143,000 plus trade-in (\$17,000). This amount could be covered from Capital Reserve following an anticipated 2025 annual deposit of \$25,000 with approximately \$17,000 remaining in the account. The Loader on a lease to buy contract would cost between 196,600 and 198,350. Lease-to-buy or bank loan will need to be researched for the best option. It is expected that the annual payment cost would be similar to the Grader payments that were completed this year. Further research and discussion are expected on this equipment including any possible lease returns that may be available.

● Following a line item review, Brenna made a motion to approve the Highway Budget as requested for 2025 at \$472,060.

Mike seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Mike made a motion to approve the minutes for December 4, 2024 as recorded.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Mike made a motion to approve the Manifest for December 11, 2024 as presented.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Upon receiving a request from Southwestern Community Services for 2025 funding, Mike made a motion to approve the requested \$500 which is down by \$377 from last year.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Upon further review of the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's budget it was determined that there would be fewer new equipment needs in 2025 as one of the computers was replaced in 2024. Therefore, Brenna made a motion to approve an amended 2025 Budget for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector at \$62.308.

Don seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Mike made a motion to approve an image of the new Nelson Welcome sign as the cover for the 2024 Town Report.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Rick Popovic has been invited to the next Selectmen's meeting to discuss school costs, allocation for Sullivan students, and the school's impact on taxes.

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

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned 5:45 PM

Next regular meeting December 18, 2024 at 3:00 PM

Minutes for December 11, 2024

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Brenna Kucinski, Chair

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Michael Blaudschun, Selectman

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Don Carlisle, Selectman