

Town of Nelson
Selectmen's Meeting
3:00 PM

December 13, 2023

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

Absent:

Others attending: E. Giacomo, H. Flanagan, B. Maden and Stoddard Select Board representatives - M. Pong, C. Madden

Brenna called the December 13, 2023 meeting of the Nelson Select Board to order at 3:00 PM.

● Mike made a motion to approve the minutes for December 6, 2023 as recorded.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Mike made a motion to approve the manifest for December 13, 2023 as presented.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Mike made a motion to approve a letter allowing E911 to release Nelson data for Broadband Mapping.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Mike made a motion to approve a solar exemption for S. Weaver.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Mike made a motion to approve an Intent to Cut for D. Patek as proposed.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● E. Giacomo and H. Flanagan came before the Board to present the 2024 proposed budget for the Cemetery Board. The 2024 budget request of \$35,445 includes:

- Cemetery Design for the new Nelson Cemetery
- Legal cost to establish legal ownership of the Munsonville Cemetery and Funds previously turned over to the Town but lacked appropriate completion of paperwork
- Address headstone damages in the Munsonville Cemetery
- Erosion control in the Munsonville Cemetery
- An arborist consultation for trees at the Nelson Cemetery
- Annual training workshops
- Contracted Cemetery maintenance services

The Board agreed with the need of each element of the Cemetery budget request.

●As a result of Brenna’s attendance at the last Conservation Commission meeting, she made a motion to keep the 2024 budget the same as it was in 2023 and to return the Milfoil article to \$5,000 for the 2024 Warrant.

Mike seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Brenna reported that she has found some individual lighting units to address the ballot counting difficulties due to dim lighting. She discussed the fixtures with Lew Derby for his approval. All agreed the fixtures should be ordered right away to be ready for the Primary in January.

● Next, the Board met with the Stoddard Town Administrator M. Pong, a Stoddard Select Board member, C Madden, and Stoddard resident B. Maden to discuss the possible development of a plan for both towns to share a full-time Police Chief.

Brenna review the history of Nelson’s search for part-time police officers and Stoddard shared their similar experience of continuous searching with no results. There are few part-time certified officers and the demand has created a competition among municipalities. Smaller communities are now faced with few options and all at a high cost in order to provide police protection. All agreed that small towns like Nelson and Stoddard benefit from Police Officers that a part of the community. “Their own Officers” seen and visited with regularly, in small town fashion. Spending time with the children at school, keeping watch of elderly residents, and being a visible presence instilling a sense of calm in knowing help is there if ever needed.

Discussion covered:

- ❖ How a sharing of one Police Chief might work
- ❖ Budget implications for both towns
- ❖ Review of equipment investments currently held by each Town- 2 cruisers in each town
- ❖ Brief overview of Nelson’s community Forum including questions posed by attendees
- ❖ Report of Nelson Select Board’s meeting with the Temple/Greenville Police Chief
- ❖ Brief discussion of the skills and experience of Nelson’s current Police Chief
- ❖ Expectation that hiring a Full-time officer will be easier with a competitive package
- ❖ Some part-time officers to help with coverage will still be needed.
- ❖ Stoddard to hold a public forum for their community feedback
- ❖ Many details to work on – financial and legal contractual commitments
- ❖ Each town operates under different fiscal year periods

The Stoddard representatives expressed interest in furthering the discussion with their community. Nelson will continue to gather information to answer the questions and concerns already raised.

●The Board continued to develop a possible budget proposal if both towns come to a sharing agreement. All numbers will be carefully reviewed before presented in a final budget proposal.

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

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned 5:26 PM

Next regular meeting December 20, 2023 at 3:00 PM

Minutes for December 13, 2023

Brenna Kucinski, Chair

Michael Blaudschun, Selectman

Don Carlisle, Selectman