

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

December 30, 2025

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

Others attending: M. Tarr

Absent:

Brenna called the December 30, 2025 meeting of the Nelson Select Board to order at 3:00 PM.

- Mike made a motion to approve the minutes for December 17, 2025 as recorded.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Mike made a motion to approve the manifest for December 24, 2025 as presented.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Mike made a motion to approve the manifest for December 31, 2025 as presented.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Mike made a motion to approve a Report of Cut and Timber Certification for A. Caraballo on Murdough Hill Road.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Following a brief review, Mike made a motion to approve the proposed Agricultural Commission budget for 2026 as presented at \$300.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Mike made a motion to approve the transfer of the remaining 2025 funds (\$260) to the Agricultural Commission checking account. The Board is hopeful that the Commission will become active again in 2026.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Following a line item review and noting an increase in elections during 2026, Mike made a motion to approve the Town Clerk/Tax Collector/Election budget for 2026 as proposed.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Edie reported that Kevin Russell of the NH DOT is requesting that the Select Board move forward with their intent to replace the Bailey Brook Bridge using the State's 80/20 grant program. It is suggested that the Board begin with an engineering survey which could cost as much as \$80,000. These funds would need to be paid up front by the Town with no firm guarantee of reimbursement for the survey. Even if a bridge

project is approved, the town must have the money to pay and later be reimbursed by the State if the final inspection requirement are fully met. The cost of a full replacement could run well over one and a half million dollars. The Board agreed that other options must be looked at. This could include modified repair or even closure. Further study is needed but for now Brenna made a motion to completely withdraw Nelson from the Grant program.

Don seconded.

The motion carried 3-0. (The Road Agent was informed and agrees with their decision)

- M. Tarr came before the Board to discuss a concerning repair of the 2012 Peterbilt highway truck. The truck has been out of commission for several weeks. Porter's Diesel had the truck, has replaced several parts, and done lengthy and costly diagnostic evaluation and has finally given up. The truck has now been moved to TMS diesel and as of this date the problem has not been determined with any certainty. The repair costs for this year will soon exceed \$40,000. Several options are being considered but all at a high cost. Adjusting the work load with the remaining equipment may work for the short term as concern rises that the value of the truck may be far less than the cost to repair, if it's even possible. Tarr would like to call on the Road Equipment Committee to get their thoughts.

- With the Road Equipment Capital Reserve fund having been depleted last year, and the rapidly increasing cost of this type of equipment, Mike made a motion to increase the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve deposit to \$40,000 beginning with the 2026 Town Warrant.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- The Board then agreed that Tarr should set up a meeting with the Road Equipment Committee as soon as possible.

- The Board received an email from a concerned resident that was prompted by the Keene Sentinel having published an overview of Police calls and activity in several other towns but Nelson was not included. The resident was concerned that the Board was withholding information that is important to the residents. The fact is, Nelson was not invited to participate in the reporting and the Board knew nothing of the article until they received the resident's email. The numbers and types of calls for Police service are available to anyone who wishes to request them. Each year the entire year's numbers are published in the Town Report but at any time residents may request an up-to-date report from the Police department. The Board will respond personally to the resident's concerns.

- The Board then continued working on the Selectmen's annual report for the 2025 Town Report.

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

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned 4:28 PM

Next regular meeting January 7, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Minutes for December 30, 2025

Brenna Kucinski, Chair

Michael Blaudschun, Selectman

Don Carlisle, Selectman