

**Town of Nelson
Selectmen's Meeting
2:00 PM**

December 6, 2023

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

Absent:

Others attending: Police Chief James H. McTague of Temple/Greenville Police Dept., J. Sarcione

Brenna called the December 6, 2023 meeting of the Nelson Select Board to order at 2:00 PM.

● Police Chief James McTague, a 33-year veteran of Police service and currently the longest serving Police Chief in NH came before the Board to share his experience in the development of, and ongoing success of, the joint community Police Service in Temple and Greenville. Chief McTague brings a broad view of New Hampshire Police Service having served as a municipal police chief, NH State Trooper, and County Sherriff all at the same time.

The town of Temple covers 23 square miles with a population of approximately 1,500 while Greenville covers only 7 square miles but with a population of approximately 2,400.

Part of the formula for making this work was the formation of a Police Board comprised of an equal number of Select Board members from each town.

It is estimated that this multi-town department approach has saved around \$5,000,000 over the last 18 years. These two towns established one police department. The department employees 4 additional full-time officers and 4 part-time officers.

As Nelson began exploring its future Policing options, it became evident that many local communities are facing the same situation due to lack of qualified or available police officers. Stoddard finds itself also needing to find a new option for Police service to its community. The Board agreed that sharing police coverage using such a model could benefit both Stoddard and Nelson and an in-depth discussion with the Stoddard Selectmen should be arranged as soon as possible.

Much like Temple/Greenville, Nelson and Stoddard have differences in square miles and population to be considered for an equitable cost sharing.

Chief McTague offered to return if Stoddard is interested in exploring this further with Nelson.

Next, Fire Chief J. Sarcione came before the Board to present the Fire Department update.

- ❖ He presented Estimates for two proposed dry hydrants – Granite Lake at approx. \$20,621
The Nelson Ballfield at approx. \$22,208 for the labor and materials
- ❖ The design and permitting costs will be additional
- ❖ EMS License – Non-transport status has been successfully renewed
- ❖ The department administrator is moving and a new member will take over the position and maintain all required reporting.
- ❖ All records are currently up-to-date and training is taking place
- ❖ A meeting is planned with a retired paramedic now living in town who may join the department.
- ❖ The School inspection is done - There are some issues to overcome to fully meet compliance
- ❖ Sarcione will offer a Fire Extinguisher class for the school and town employees
- ❖ A CPR class will be offered to town residents

4:26 PM

● Brenna made a motion to move into Non-Public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (a&c) Personnel and Harm to Reputation. J. Sarcione was invited to attend.

Mike seconded.

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

4:43 PM

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

Mike seconded.

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

● Brenna made a motion to reconvene the regular public meeting.

Mike seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Mike made a motion to approve the Notes taken at the Public Information Forum for the proposal to hire a full-time Police Chief.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0

● Mike made a motion to approve the minutes for November 29, 2023 as recorded.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Mike made a motion to approve the manifest for December 6, 2023 as presented.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Following a review of scaled-back plans, Mike made a motion to approve a Building Permit for L. & S. Ryder according to the plans presented with the modification previously discussed.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Mike made a motion to approve the purchase of new security cameras to be included in the 2023 budget (\$2,900) and an overdue new server in the 2024 budget unless funds remain available in the 2023 budget (\$8,100).

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Following a request for 2024 budget funding, Mike made a motion to approve \$877 to be placed in the Social Services Article for Southwestern Community Services. This is an increase of \$277 over 2023 due to the number of Nelson residents served.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Mike made a motion to approve the Conservation Commission budget as requested at \$1,205, down \$145 from 2023.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Brenna will clarify with the Conservation Commission their request for a large increase in the Milfoil warrant article as no detailed explanation was provided for the increase.

● Mike made a motion to approve a refund of a tax overpayment that occurred due to an error by the Title company during the closing of a land transfer.
Brenna seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

● Mike made a motion to approve the appropriately documented request from the Agricultural Commission to transfer all remaining 2023 budget funds to the Agricultural Commission checking account.
Brenna seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

● Discussion continued briefly regarding plans to meet with the Stoddard Selectmen and gathering further details regarding the number of calls for service that each town has logged during this year to date.

● 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 13, 2023 at 3:00 PM

Minutes for December 6, 2023

Brenna Kucinski, Chair

Michael Blaudschun, Selectman

Don Carlisle, Selectman