

Town of Nelson Selectmen's Meeting

February 10, 2016

Executive Board Attending: David Upton, Maury Collins, Edie Drinkwater, Admin. Assist.

Others attending: General Voter Audience

At 7:03 PM the meeting was opened by Chair David Upton who sent well wishes to Susan Hansel for a speedy recovery.

- David presented a brief introduction and explained that the meeting would be to review the Town Warrant and the budget relating to each article.
- The full Town Warrant will be posted with these minutes.
- Article 2 which would allow Town Meeting to be held on two days, one day to vote for officers and items on the official ballot and another day to conduct the business meeting brought questions from the audience. Q. Who would be running the meeting, the newly elected officials or the previous official? A. Julia Lennon explained that the Board presenting the Warrant would remain through that meeting and then new officers would take over.
- Articles 3 and 4 which would clarify two existing Zoning ordinances also drew several questions. There was some concern that new regulations were being added rather than simply changing the language for clarity. Jeff Taylor explained the language change as it relates to small structures that are detached vs small structures attached to an existing structure which would results in a change to the footprint of the original structure.
- Article 5, the operating budget, brought questions regarding offsetting funds. The article has offsetting funds received from private donations to pay against the principal of the Town Hall and Library lower level renovation loans. These funds are held in three very specific purpose accounts. The DRA required that the amounts from each account be shown that total that particular offset. The article goes on to say that there is an additional anticipated offset amount. These come from various revenues received and are of a general purpose. *(An accounting of these anticipated revenues can be found in detail on the MS-636 which will appear in the annual Town Report)*
It was also noted that although the gravel pit is a function of the Highway department the principal and interest payments must be accounted for in the general operating budget.
D. Upton explained the allocation budgeted to address fire code violation for all of the Town Building. Questions arose as to why the fire code violations were not noted by architects or contractors who had worked on these building and if there is any recourse the town could take.
- Articles were read and discussed and as questions arose they were answered. David Birchenough gave a detailed presentation to the audience concerning the Article to install Solar panels on the south roof of the library. He answered questions and agreed to have more information on projected cost saving to present at Town Meeting.
- Kathy Schillemat explained an article which would allow the Conservation Commission to expend funds to "qualified" organizations to support a conservation project in which the Town of Nelson would

hold no interest or control. It was noted that such a project may not necessarily be within the Town of Nelson. It was also made clear that the Conservation Commission would have sole discretion in these matters.

- The article review continued through all department budgets, Capital Reserves, special and petition articles until the Warrant was complete.

- Linda Cates announced that the Library will be sponsoring a Candidates night on February 23, 2016.

- Julia Lennon took a moment to explain to the audience that she requested the 2 day Town Meeting because of the extremely long night for the election workers. The counting process which begins after the business meeting often goes into the early morning hours. This is stressful and exhausting for the workers. For many people who need to work the next day it makes it hard for them to participate in this process.

- With the Warrant review complete the Board moved to the Town Office to sign paperwork.

With nothing further, David made a motion to adjourn.
Maury seconded and the motion carried 2-0.

Meeting adjourned 9: 54 PM.

February 10, 2016

David Upton, Chair

Maury Collins, Selectman

Absent

Susan Hansel, Selectman