

Town of Nelson

Budget Caucus Meeting

7:00 PM

February 8, 2022

Executive Board Attending: Brenna Kucinski, Maury Collins, Edie Drinkwater, Admin. Assist.

Others attending: J. Bunce, M. Tarr, M. Nunnemaker, S. Peery, G. Peery, L. Smith, J. Smith, E. Giacomo, L. Derby

At 7:02 PM Brenna Kucinski opened the February 8, 2022 Budget Caucus meeting of the Nelson Select Board.

- Brenna turned to G. Peery, Planning Board Chair, to present articles #2 and #3 of the Warrant as these are Zoning Ordinance amendments as proposed by the Planning Board. He explained that both articles are “house-keeping” details to bring the language and use of RSAs up to date.
- Brenna presented article #4, reviewing each separate budget that comprises the operating budget. She highlighted the areas where increases are indicated and explained the needs and projections for the funding given the general increase in all costs as well as plans for increased activity in some departments, overdue maintenance of the safety building, and necessary maintenance of vehicles and equipment for the Police and Fire departments.
- Elaine Giacomo spoke to the Cemetery budget including design and development work on the new cemetery, work with professional consultants, and much needed tree maintenance.
- As the Fire Chief was not present, Brenna explained the main cost increase for the Fire department is due to a transition from non-paid and stipend to paid per hour for all calls responded to. It was suggested by J. Bunce and G. Peery that consideration be given to charging property owners who have false alarms.
- Review of each Warrant article proceeded. J. Bunce suggested amending the article adding \$25,000 to the existing Town Buildings Capital Reserve Fund to state that no solar projects may be paid for from these funds. Brenna explained that the solar projects directly provide for the electricity used to operate the Town Buildings and as such is deemed a qualifying use.
- The article covering repairs to the West Shore Road Bridge at an anticipated cost of \$75,000 brought further concerns from J. Bunce that the “patch” repair may be shortsighted and spending upwards of \$200,000 for a new bridge might provide a far longer life expectancy and better investment for the town. (20-50 for the repair vs. 50 plus for a new bridge)
- E. Giacomo voiced uncertainty that the Fuller property, that is to be used as the new cemetery, was ever accepted by the Town. Edie will track down any available documentation.

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

Maury seconded.

The motion carried 2-0.

Meeting Adjourned 8:17 PM.

For February 8, 2022

Brenna Kucinski, Chair

Maury Collins, Selectman

Absent

William Dunn, Selectman