

NELSON TOWN MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 13 & 17, 2018

For the second year in a row, the election portion of the Town Meeting was held once again during a snow storm, a Nor'easter. However, this year there was no doubt if the election would be held or not. The state made it very clear that our traditional Town Meeting held on the 2nd Tuesday of March would not be postponed. The polls opened as usual at 11 am and closed at 7 pm. 96 Nelson voters cast their ballots.

Article 01: Choose necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing (by official Ballot)

Selectmen – 3 years, David Upton
Moderator – 2 years, Lewis Derby
Trustee of the Library – 3 years, Lewis Derby
Trustee of Trust Funds – 3 years, Thomas Newcombe
Cemetery Board – 3 years, 3 positions Unfilled
Nelson Fire & Rescue Equipment Committee – 1 year, John Bunce, Barbara Roland, Bob Lenox
Supervisors of the Checklist – 6 years, Anita Flanagan
Emergency Management Officer – 1 year, Dennis Dellagrecia
Planning Board Member – 3 years, Mark Levine
Zoning Board of Adjustment – 3 years, John Cucchi, Dennis Dellagrecia
Road Equipment Committee – 3 years, John Bunce
Treasurer – 1 year, John Shea

The business portion of the meeting was held on Saturday, March 17 and started promptly at 10 am. We began with the cub scouts of Pack 530 presenting the colors and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. The moderator went over the correct rules and the civil manner in which our town business is conducted, according to New Hampshire state laws. The meeting began with Article 2 since Article 1 was decided by ballot votes on March 13, 2018.

Article 02: To defray the Town charges for the year ensuing

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$896,954 for general municipal operations of Town departments including Executive, Administrative, Cemetery, Fire, Police, Highway, Emergency management, Health Officer, Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission, Planning and Zoning Boards, for the year ensuing. This article has anticipated offsetting revenue of \$240,600. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion made and seconded to accept Article 2 as read. Selectman David Upton spoke to the article by going through the budget department by department.

Cathy Schillemat called everyone's attention to the section of the annual report on town salaries in which the Select Board is asking for a 69% increase for themselves and a 4.1% increase for the Administrative Assistant. She pointed out how other town departments, except the Police Dept. were not receiving increases. A motion was made by Kathy Schillemat to reduce the budget by \$4,000. It was seconded by Elaine Giacomo. She proposed that a 2% increase across the board for all town employees and town officials be considered which would reduce the budget by \$4,000. She felt that to reward everyone in this way would be more fair and equitable. Upton responded to this amendment explaining

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the boards reasoning. After discussing this amendment for some time, a vote was called. The amendment was **PASSED** by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Michael Blaudschun to amend the budget to \$803,384 budget which decreases the budget by \$85,700. Motion was seconded. Blaudschun spoke to his amendment. Upton responded to this motion by mentioning the future costs that we could expect and the need for contingency budgeting. A lengthy discussion followed Amendment **FAILED** by a voice vote.

The article as amended reducing the budget to \$892,954 was called to vote.

Article **PASSED** by a voice vote.

Article 03: Support of Town Library

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$38,158 for the support of the Town library, \$32,167 to be raised by taxes and \$5,991 to come from Library Memorial Funds, gifts, grants, and other sources. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion made and seconded to accept Article 3 as read. Susan Peery spoke to this motion. She thanked the Librarian, her staff and the Friends of the Library for all the good work they do.

Article **PASSED** by a voice vote.

Article 04: Funding of various social service agencies

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,502 for support of social service agencies which provide assistance to Nelson residents. The agencies chosen to receive funds are: American Red Cross (\$350), The Community Kitchen Inc. (\$1,500), Home Health Care Services (\$550), Monadnock Family Services (\$911), Southwestern Community Services (\$500), Monadnock Region child Advocacy Center (\$1,000), Hundred Nights Inc. (\$500), MCVP Crisis & Prevention Center (\$441), The Samaritans, Inc. (\$250), and Casa for Children (\$500). In 2017, \$5,061 was paid in support of social service agencies and Nelson residents were provided over \$38,238 in food, services and direct assistance. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion made and seconded to accept Article 4 as read. John Bunce had a question on the number of services that are being supported. David Upton responded.

Article **PASSED** by a voice vote.

Article 05: Repair, clean and restore damaged headstones

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to repair, clean and restore damaged headstones in the Nelson and Munsonville cemeteries. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0

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Motion made and seconded to accept Article 5 as read. . Elaine Giacomo spoke to this article.

Article **PASSED** by a voice vote

Article 06: Add funds to Town Buildings Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Town Buildings Capital Reserve Fund previously established. No withdrawals may be made from the fund except by vote of the town. The Town Buildings Capital Reserve Fund balance as of 12/31/2017 was approximately \$84,039. The Selectmen Recommend this article 3-0.

Motion made and seconded to accept Article 6 as read.

Article **PASSED** by a voice vote

Article 07: Add funds to Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established for the purpose of Fire Apparatus purchases for the Fire Department. No withdrawals may be made from this Fund except by vote of the Town and upon recommendation of the Fire Chief. The Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund balance as of 12/31/2017 was approximately \$169,092. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion made and seconded to accept Article 7 as read.

Article **PASSED** by a voice vote

Article 08: Add funds to Milfoil Prevention and Treatment Expendable Trust

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Milfoil Prevention Expendable Trust Fund previously established. The fund balance as of 12/31/2017 was approximately \$28,307. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion made and seconded to accept Article 8 as read. Kathy Schillemat spoke to this article. John Bunce had a question which was answered by David Upton. There was much discussion in regard to this article.

Article **PASSED** by a voice vote

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Article 09: Funding for fighting forest fires with anticipated reimbursement

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for the purpose of fighting forest fires. This sum to come as reimbursement from the NH State Fire Warden and no amount will be raised through taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion made and seconded to accept Article 9 as read.

Article **PASSED** by a voice vote

Article 10: Add funds to Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Police Equipment Capital reserve fund previously established. No withdrawals may be made from this fund except by vote of the Town and with the recommendation of the Police Chief. The Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund balance as of 12/31/2017 was approximately \$15,331. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion made and seconded to accept Article 10 as read.

Article **PASSED** by a voice vote

Article 11: Add funds to Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 to be added to the Road Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established. No withdrawals may be made from this fund except by vote of the Town upon recommendation of the Road Equipment Committee. The Road Equipment Capital Reserve Fund balance as of 12/31/2017 was approximately \$59,778. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion made and seconded to accept Article 11 as read.

Article **PASSED** by a voice vote

Article 12: Fund special patrols or details performed by Nelson Police

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000 for the purpose of patrols or details performed by the Nelson Police Department for the State of New Hampshire, Cheshire County Sheriff's Department, other municipalities or authorized private entities. The total sum to come from offsetting grants and/or revenues received for said patrols and details and no amount to be raised through taxation. The Police Chief recommends this appropriation. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

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Motion made and seconded to accept Article 12 as read.

Article **PASSED** by a voice vote

Article 13: Add funds to Nelson Bridge Repair or Replacement Expendable Trust

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be added to the Nelson Bridge Repair or Replacement Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Funds are to be used for the extensive repairs or replacement of bridges in the town of Nelson. The Selectmen are the agents to expend said funds. The Nelson Bridge Repair or Replacement Expendable Trust Fund balance as of 12/31/2017 was approximately \$10,083. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion made and seconded to accept Article 13 as read.

Article **PASSED** by a voice vote

Article 14: Purchase of Forest Firefighting equipment

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 for the purchase of Forest Firefighting equipment. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion made and seconded to accept Article 14 as read.

Article **PASSED** by a voice vote

Article 15: Purchase and installation of 3 Dry Hydrants

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the purchase and installation of 3 Dry Hydrants (2 new and 1 replacement). The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion made and seconded to accept Article 15 as read. Rick Church commented on how this same article has been on the warrant for many years. A lengthy discussion followed.

Article **PASSED** by a voice vote

Article 16: Purchase a new Firefighting Pumper/Tanker Truck

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$422,381 for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a new Firefighting Pumper/Tanker Truck and to authorize the withdrawal of up to \$50,000 from the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund created for that purpose. The balance of \$372,381 to come from anticipated offsetting funds from a Federal Grant for that purpose. The Fire

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Equipment Capital Reserve Fund balance as of 12/31/2017 was approximately \$169,092. It being understood that neither the Pumper/Tanker purchase or withdrawal of Capital Reserve funds will occur unless the Grant is awarded to the Town of Nelson. This article is non-lapsing until December 31, 2019. The Nelson Fire and Rescue Department and the Nelson Fire and Rescue Equipment Committee support this article. The Fire Chief recommends this article. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion made and seconded to accept Article 16 as read. Barbara Roland spoke to the Grant and thanked Bob Lenox for his work on the Nelson Fire and Rescue Equipment Committee. Further discussed ensued.

Article **PASSED** by a voice vote.

Articles By Petition

Article 17: By Petition - Support for Nelson School Students

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,950 for the Game of Village Inc., a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, to support the expenses of Nelson resident school students in order to attend Village 2018 - a summer learning experience. All children who live in Nelson and are entering 5th-8th grades may attend. This is a "Petitioned Article". The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion made and seconded to accept Article 17 as read. Tom Buttrick spoke to this article.

Article **PASSED** by a voice vote

Before the Town Meeting was brought to an end, Rick Church commented on the legislative body in respect to how well this meeting was conducted. He declared that it was one of the best Town Meetings that he had ever attended.

The business part of the annual town meeting ended at 11:50 AM

Respectfully submitted.

A true copy

Attest: Julia Lennon

Julia Lennon, Town Clerk
April 3, 2018