

**Article 01: Choose necessary Town Officers for the year ensuing. (by official ballot)**

Selectmen – 3 years, Brenna Kucinski  
Trustee of the Library – 3 years, Lewis Derby  
Trustee of the Trust Funds – 3 years, Tom Newcombe and John Zurich  
Trustee of the Trust Funds – 1 year, Carol Travers  
Cemetery Board – 3 years, Linda Cates, Al Stoops and Laurie Redfern-Smith  
Emergency Management Officer – 1 year, Dennis Dellagrecia  
Planning Board Member – 3 years, Ethan McBrien and Gordon Peery  
Road Equipment Committee – 3 years, John Bunce  
Zoning Board of Adjustment – 3 years, Robert Roland, Amanda Bedard and James Newcombe  
Treasurer – 1 year, Laurie Redfern-Smith  
Nelson Fire & Rescue – 3 years, Barbara Roland

The business portion of the meeting was held on Saturday, **July 17th, 2021, starting at 10:04am**, postponed from March due to COVID 19. Lew Derby, moderator, lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, and went over the procedural rules for a town meeting as set by the State of New Hampshire as well as rules to stay safe. The meeting began with Article 2 as Article 1 was decided by ballot votes on **July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**, also postponed from March due to COVID 19.

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

. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$973,541 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 \$249,499. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Dave Upton and seconded by Al Guida. Dave Upton spoke to the article referring everyone to pages 26-33 of the town report. He proceeded to highlight the contributing factors to the slight increase in the budget from last year. 1-the new grader was the major contributor however there was also a \$10,000 reduction as there were no repairs to the old grader. 2- next year will be a total reevaluation of properties at a cost of \$12,000. 3-slight increase of \$2,700 for Town Clerk/Tax Collector. 4-ambulance service increase for the Fire Department. 5- potential increase in repairs for Police Dept units. 6-small increase to Emergency Management for supplies. Mike Blaudshun referred to line item for electricity on page 31 asking why it was \$8200 and is still \$8200 when solar panels were installed. Dave Upton said it was hard to predict what the savings would be but the solar panels are producing as expected and should be reduced by about \$6000. Winn Raynor asked if the budget included increases in gas and diesel as prices continue to go up. Dave stated they included adequate funds for gas increases when preparing the budget. With no further discussion Lew called for a vote.

The article **PASSED** on a voice vote.

### **Article 03: Support of Town Library**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,850 for the support of the town library, \$36,525 to be raised by taxes and \$4,325 to come from Library Memorial Funds, gifts, grants, and other sources. Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Dave Upton and seconded by Al Guida. Susan Peery spoke to the article very proud of the fact that the circulation did not decline during COVID 19 and zoom programs were popular and will continue as well as curbside pick up. The budget was up slightly due to an increase in salaries. The library received a grant from the American Rescue Plan of \$2756.00 which they used to purchase 2 picnic tables for the back lawn. Judy Lang- will the library will be effected by the state budget. Susan said it hadn't really been discussed but our library will remain open to all. With no further discussion Lew called for a vote.

The Article **PASSED** on 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 \$6,550 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. (\$500), Home Health Care Service, Hospice and Community Services (\$1,000), Monadnock Family Services (\$1,000), Southwestern Community Services (\$700), Monadnock Region Child Advocacy Center (\$1,500), Hundred Nights Inc. (\$500) and Casa for Children (\$500). In 2020, \$7,187 was paid in support of these social service agencies and Nelson residents were provided over \$81,983 in food, services and direct assistance. The Selectmen recommend these appropriations 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Dave Upton and seconded by John Bunce. Dave Upton spoke to the article and how great these services are to the residents of Nelson. With no further discussion Lew called for a vote.

The Article **PASSED** on a voice vote

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### **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 cemeteries. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0

Motion to accept article as read by Dave Upton, seconded by Gordon Perry. Elaine Giacomo spoke to the article and the need to preserve the historic headstones in our cemeteries.

The Article **PASSED** on 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 12/31/2021 was approximately \$59,558. The Selectmen Recommend this appropriation 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Dave Upton and seconded by John Bunce. Dave spoke to the article to say he hopes the town will install heat pumps in the rest of the town buildings in the future to help curb dependency on fossil fuels.

Article **PASSED** on 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/Appartus purchases for the Fire Department. No withdrawals may be made from the fund except by vote of the town and upon recommendation of the Fire Chief. The Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund balance as of 12/31/2021 was approximately \$60,040. The Selectmen Recommend this appropriation 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Dave Upton and seconded by John Bunce.

Article **PASSED** on a voice vote.

**Article 08: Add funds to Milfoil Prevention Expendable Trust Fund**

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 12/31/2000 was approximately \$32,698. The selectmen recommend this article 3-0

Motion to accept the article as read made by Dave Upton and seconded by John Bunce. Janet Yardley spoke to the article and the lake host program for prevention and the balance held for remediation.

The article **PASSED** on a voice vote.



**Article 09: Funding for fighting forest fires with anticipated**

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 appropriation 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Dave Upton and seconded by Lisa Sieverts.

Article **PASSED** on 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 \$10,000 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 12/31/2020 was approximately \$41,475. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Dave Upton and seconded by John Bunce  
Mike Blaudschun asked Richard Pratt how much a new police cruiser would cost. Rich said the plan was to buy last year but with the pandemic it was postponed and now prices are high. Dave Upton added that the chief would prefer a pick up and adding to the fund would get us close.

Article **PASSED** on a voice vote

**Article 11: Add funds to the Nelson Bridge Repair/Replacement ETF**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 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 12/31/2020 was approximately \$30,872. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Dave Upton and seconded by John Bunce

The article **PASSED** on a voice vote.

### **Article 12: Add funds to the Road Equip. 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 Equip Capital Reserve Fund balance as of 12/31/2020 was approximately \$28,394. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Dave Upton and seconded by Lisa Sieverts.

The article **PASSED** on a voice vote

### **Article 13: Pave Parking Area at Granite Lake Fire Station**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of Paving the existing gravel driveway and roof drip line area at the Granite Lake Fire Station. The goal is to prevent soil erosion and mitigate the migration of detrimental sediment into Granite Lake. The paving will allow water run-off to flow easily without picking up and carrying harmful sediment. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Dave Upton and seconded by John Bunce.

Dave spoke to the article saying the article was brought up last year and Mike Tarr suggested it be postponed until this year to get a better deal on the paving. John Bunce said the fire station is not the problem, that there are many sanded driveways and other factors that are far worse. Mike Blaudschun asked for a long range plan for the fire station, because spending money on the driveway for a station that the trucks can't fit in seems pointless. The fire chief said they intend to keep the station as long as possible as it does provide storage for the forestry equipment and smaller fire vehicle.

The article **PASSED** 47-21 on a written vote.

### **Article 14: Fund other Patrols/Details performed by Nelson PD**

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 sum to come from the offsetting grants and/or revenues received for said patrols and details and no amount to be raised through taxation. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Dave Upton and seconded by John Bunce.

The article **PASSED** by a voice vote.

## **Article 15: Purchase and installation of new lighted Flagpole**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 2,500 for the purchase and installation of a new lighted flagpole for the proper display of the American Flag in front of the Town Hall. It being understood that the flag will typically be displayed 24 hours a day and therefore must be properly illuminated at night. The Selectmen recommend this article 2-1.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by John Bunce and seconded by Al Guida

John Bunce spoke to the article – our town buildings do not have a proper flag pole to display the American flag, The concern is that it produces light in the common. It will have a solar light which produces light like the moon. John asks for a written vote. Jim Wilder said he has the same system at 360 Apple Hill Rd and to drive by at night to see that the light it gives off is not offensive. Tom Buttrick is against any illumination. Tom Buttrick made the motion to amend the article to read **-To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100 for the purchase of an American flag to be flown on the flag pole at the Nelson school.** Lisa Sieverts seconded. Joe Anderson- we have a flag pole right there and no one bothered to fly the flag for town meeting. Joe was also against any kind of illumination. Elaine Giacomo – against amendment as it should be a school decision. Val VanMeir- the village is from the 1800's and the flag should be displayed the old fashioned way of putting it up manually when the offices are open. Andy Wilson lives in village and agrees with Tom and Val and against illumination. Al Stoops stated he is currently the one tending to the flag and that it is hard to put up and down and is getting caught on the bulletin board and fraying. Al is in favor of a flag pole but with a solar light that could be turned off. Dave Upton said he was confused, should be a school board issue not town. The moderator called for a vote on the amendment. The amendment **FAILED**. Back to original article. Betsy Street questioned if the light faced up or down and the answer was down. Susan Peery would not be in favor of illumination without the consent of everyone in the village. Rick Popovic stated there is a flag at the school already and it is raised and lowered every day. Laurie Smith is concerned that the flag is out in all weather and needs to be attended to. Al Stoops made a motion to amend the article for a new flagpole and to strike lighted. The amendment reads: **To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2500.00 for the purchase and installation of a flagpole for the proper display of the American Flag in front of the Town Hall.** Lisa Sieverts seconded. The article title needs to be changed to take out lighted. Bill Dunn asked if the old flag pole would come down as there is no need for 2. Pricilla Walter said it reminds her of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, where she recalled the saying shoot me but spare your towns flag. Tom Buttrick thinks with a longer rope the old flagpole is fine. Elaine Giacomo wants to know who is they that will tend to this flag. Mile Blaudshun was for the original article as it was easier to vote down and come back with a new article next year.

Amendment **FAILED** on a voice vote.

Original article **FAILED** 31-55 on a written vote.



### **Article 16: By Petition- Support for Nelson School Students**

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1950 for the Game of Village Inc, a 501C 3 non-profit organization, to support the expenses of Nelson resident school students in order to attend Village 2021- a summer learning experience. All children who live in Nelson and are entering 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade mat attend. This is a 'Petitioned Article" The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Lisa Sieverts and seconded by Kirk Dale.

Tom Buttrick spoke to the article and explained that the program, because of the delay in the town meeting due to covid, for this year is over.

Tom Buttrick made the motion to pass over and was seconded by Betsy Street.

Betsy Street wants to make sure it is included in the budget for next year. Elizabeth Williams hopes additional funds will be added to the article next year.

**Vote was called for on the motion to pass over.**

Motion **PASSED** on a voice vote.

### **Article 17: By Petition- Support research to solicit proposal.**

To see if the Town will vote to support the formation of an ad hoc committee to research and document the need for improved broadband internet coverage in Nelson, and further to solicit proposals from high speed internet providers based on the committee's findings. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Lisa Sieverts made a motion to pass over Andy Wilson seconded.

Barbara Roland spoke to the article- a lot of funds are becoming available through the government and the intent of the petition was to be prepared to apply for these funds. Lisa Sieverts – it is already happening and there is no need to form a committee and holds with her motion to pass over. Linda Cates still doesn't have high speed and would like a committee to consult with. Tom Buttrick – a lot going on in town with new high speed internet. Tom says all that have an 827 exchange have benefited from Harrisvilles connection. Other surrounding towns are connecting and if we don't put something together we will be the town of the haves and have nots. Lisa Sieverts withdraws her motion to pass over.

Vote called for on origina larticle.

Article **PASSED** on a voice vote

### **Article 18: By Petition- Resolution for Redistricting.**

To see if the Town will vote to urge that the New Hampshire General Court, which is obligated to redraw the maps of political districts within the state following the federal census, will ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters without gerrymandering. Additionally, these voters ask the Town of Nelson to urge the NH General Court to carry out the redistricting in a fair and transparent way through public meetings, not to favor a particular political party. The record of the vote approving the article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Selectmen to Nelson's state legislators and the Governor, informing them of the demands from their constituents within 30 days of vote. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Dave Upton and seconded by Lisa Sieverts.

Article **PASSED** on a voice vote.

**Article 19: By Petition-Resolution to take action..**

To see if the Town will vote to approve the following:

We the town of Nelson hereby call upon our State and Federal elected representatives to enact carbon-pricing legislation to protect New Hampshire from the costs and environmental risks of continue climate inaction. To protect households, we support a Carbon fee and Dividend approach that charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon pollution and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equal basis. Enacting a Carbon Cash-Back program decreases long-term fossil-fuel dependence, aids in the economic transition for energy consumers, and keeps local energy dollars in New Hampshire's economy. Carbon Cash-Back has been championed by U.S. economists (Jan 17, 2019 WSJ) as the most effective and fair way to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions at the scale required for our safety.

We expect our representatives to lead in this critical moment for the health and well-being of our citizens and for the protection of New Hampshire's natural resources upon which they rely.

The record of this vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to Nelson's State Legislators, to the Governor of New Hampshire, to Nelson's Congressional Delegation, and to the President of the United States, informing them of the instructions from their constituents, by Nelson's Selectboard, within 30 days of this vote. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Dave Upton and seconded by Patricia Beffa Negrini. Pat Beffa-Negrini spoke to the article, stating most residents want action on climate change. Jim Newcombe, John Bunce, Tom Travers and Wynn Raynor do not agree and do not think it belongs in an article to be voted on by the town. Joe Anderson, Sam Osherson, Al Stoops, Beth Williams, Tom Murray and Judy Lang all spoke in favor of coming together, making a statement and passing the article. Pat Beffa-Negrini made the motion to call for a written vote, Lisa Sieverts seconds and calls for the question. Vote on calling the question PASSED.

Article **PASSED** 48-22 on a written vote.

The meeting opened with a tribute to our Road Agents Nick Barrett and Mike Tarr for a job well done.

The meeting concluded with a tribute to Dave Upton's many contributions to the town during his Selectboard tenure.

The business part of the meeting ended at 12:50 PM

Respectfully submitted:

A true copy

Attest: Karen Castelli

Karen Castelli, Town Clerk  
July 17,2021