

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

Selectmen – 3 years, Alexander Guida
Moderator – 2 years, Lew Derby
Trustee of the Library – 3 years, Anita Flanagan & Jan Perry
Trustee of the Trust Funds – 3 years, Carol Travers
Cemetery Board – 3 years, Harry Flanagan
Emergency Management Officer –1 year
Town Clerk – 3 years, Karen Castelli
Planning Board Member – 3 years, John Wengler
Road Equipment Committee – 3 years
Zoning Board of Adjustment – 3 years, Bill Dunn
Treasurer – 1 year, Laurie Smith
Nelson Fire & Rescue – 3 years
Supervisor of the Checklist – 6 years, Betsy Street

Article 02: Adopt Zoning Amendment (by official ballot)

To see if the town will vote to approve the adoption of **Amendment No. 1** as proposed by the Nelson planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: Remove all out of date statutory references to Chapter 31, and replace with conforming statutory references found in Title LXIV, Chapter 672, Chapter 673, Chapter 674, Chapter 675, Chapter 676 and, Chapter 677, and reform all New Hampshire statutory citations by using the abbreviation RSA?

The article **PASSED** on a ballot vote

Article 03: Adapt Zoning Amendment (by official ballot)

To see if the town will vote to approve the adoption of **Amendment No. 2** as proposed by the Nelson planning board for the town zoning ordinance as follows: Remove the zoning amendment history found at the end of Article 1:Preamble and retain, repeat and update this zoning amendment history as a new Section 13.10 Zoning Amendment History?

The article **PASSED** on a ballot vote

The business portion of the meeting was held on Saturday, March 12, 2022, **starting at 10:00am**, 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 4 as Article 1, 2 and 3 were decided by ballot votes on March 8, 2022.

Article 04: To defray the Town charges for the year ensuing

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,043,631.00 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 \$259,342.00. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Brenna Kucinski and seconded by Bill Dunn.

Brenna Kucinski spoke to the article referring everyone to the specifics on page 29, starting with the Board of Selectmen. Proposed is a \$1000 increase in each selectmen's salary due to the amount of time and work required for the position and is needed if we expect people to run for the position in the future. Also under Executive, the treasurer's compensation has increased as the previous treasurer John Shea pretty much worked pro bono. Brenna referred to page 30 "outside services" and the cost of everything going up. Kathy Schillemat asked about the sextons budget almost doubling. Brenna referred to page 31. Wayne Fulton retired and Rich Yeradi was hired with a wage increase from \$19-\$23 per hour. Also contributing to the increase in budget, hours are up from 5 to 15 hrs per week in order to take care of all town buildings. Also on Page 31, electricity is down due to the solar panels. Safety buildings are in need of repair, more specifically paint and drainage issues in the rear of the building. Mowing of the ball field line is up in order for the town to start using it again. Page 33 addresses the gravel pit which will be paid off in 2025 and has been and will continue to be a good investment. Page 35, cemetery budget is up due to the hiring of a designer for the new section of the cemetery that is planned. Page 38, town clerk office equipment as a new compute is needed. In regards to the Fire Department, Brenna thanked Jason Walter, who recently retired because of his family and work commitments. Joe Sarcione has been appointed as the new chief. He is a good fit with over 48 yrs experience and familiarity with the Nelson Fire Department as he had served as a member in the past. Increase to the budget is due to wage increases. In the past members never got paid for going on calls and there are plans to hire an administrative assistant. Page 45, police department, Joe Filipe has been appointed to take over for retiring Richie Pratt. Joe is more than qualified as a former Keene Police Officer, and an advanced EMT who prefers working in a small town. The police salary increased from \$25-\$30 per hour with 10-14 hours per week budgeted. Wayne Kasotas will be helping to get the department organized for the next 3 months and sometime in the future a part time deputy will be hired. Other than the increase in the office equipment, and the cost of living increase for the highway department, other departments remain stable. John Bunce said he was pleased with the new regime and wanted to thank Bill Dunn for stepping in when there was a resignation on the selectboard. He also wanted to point out that the budget we are being asked to approve is up 34% over what was spent last year and once passed will set a new tax rate for the year. Brenna pointed out the tax rate has already been set for this year at \$15.21 per thousand and is the lowest in Cheshire County. Bill Dunn proceeded to explain offsetting revenue.

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

Article 05: Support of Town Library

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$46,086 for the support of the Town library, \$40,833 to be raised by taxes and \$5,253 to come from Library Memorial Funds, gifts, grants, and other sources. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Susan Peery and seconded by Kathy Schillemat. Susan Peery spoke to the article and wanted to thank the whole town for supporting the library during Covid. The budget is up 5% due to an increase in salary and adding some hours to get back to where things were pre-covid.

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

Article 06: Funding of Various Social Service Agencies.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,536 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 (\$550), Monadnock Family Services (\$786), Southwestern Community Services (\$500), Monadnock Region Child Advocacy Center (\$1,850), Hundred Nights Inc. (\$500) and Casa for Children (\$500). In 2021, \$6,550 was paid in support of these social service agencies and Nelson residents were provided over \$167,295.00 in food, services and direct assistance. The Selectmen recommend these appropriations 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Brenna Kucinski and seconded by Maury Collins. Susan Peery said she supports the article as written but hopes next year there could be an increase.

The Article **PASSED** on a voice vote

Article 07: 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 appropriation 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Brenna Kucinski and seconded by Maury Collins.

Article **PASSED** by a voice vote.

Article 08: 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 \$82,142. The Selectmen Recommend this appropriation 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Brenna Kucinski and seconded by Maury Collins.

Article **PASSED** on a voice vote.

Article 09: 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 12/31/2021 was approximately \$85,855. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Brenna Kucinski and seconded by Maury Collin

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

Article 10: 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 12/31/2021 was approximately \$33,705. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Brenna Kucinski and seconded by Maury Colli

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

Article 11: Funding for fighting forest fires/NH reimbursement

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$500 for the purpose of fighting forest fires. This article has anticipated reimbursement from the NH State Fire Warden in the amount of \$500. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Brenna Kucinski and seconded by Maury Collin

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

Article 12: 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 12/31/2021 was approximately \$51,485. The Selectmen recommend this appropriation 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Brenna Kucinski and seconded by Maury Collins.

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

Article 13: 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 12/31/2021 was approximately \$40,879. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Brenna Kucinski and seconded by Maury Collins.

Kathy Schillemat asked how many bridges does Nelson have? Mike Tarr replied three and Victor Pepin asked what are the three. Mike listed Old Stoddard Rd, Murdough Hill Rd and Old Rt 9 near Priscilla Walters house as the three town bridges.

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

Article 14: Repair West Shore Road Bridge

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for the purpose of repairing the West Shore Road Bridge, \$40,000 to come from the Nelson Bridge Repair or Replacement Expendable Trust Fund for that purpose, and the balance to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Brenna Kucinski and seconded by Maury Collins.

Kathy Schillemat wants clarity as Mike Tarr just said this was not a bridge in town. Bill Dunn said it is considered a culvert technically but because it is under 10' but because it goes over water it is a bridge. Kathy says she is still not clear if we can use the money in this article because we said it is not a bridge. Victor Pepin said he has a house near the bridge and would like more details on the actual repair. Brenna replied bridge or not we have to repair it. The repair would involve a 40' steel reinforced slab for which the town has 5 bids. The lowest bid is for \$59,862 and work can be started in April and completed in late April or May. It also needs guardrails which Mike Tarr will put up because they are expensive. Daryl Schillemat said his question was answered as far as the bids but are the guardrails an additional \$15,000? Tom Buttrick asked if it had been okayed to use the bridge funds or does this article need to be amended? Val VanMeir wants to know if climate change and rising water levels have been taken into account by the contractors? Brenna said the bridge was designed to accommodate weight, traffic and water flow. Kathy said what Tom was getting at is, is it legally okay to use the \$40,000 bridge repair money? Also, we should be looking at all bridges in town with regard to climate change. Victor Pepin wants more specifics on the repairs itself. Will the culvert/bridge be expanded and raised up? Brenna replied replacing the culvert will not be happening as it involves DES, plus an additional \$10,000 or more and a longer wait. Mike Tarr explained the width will be the same 14' it is now with guardrails and 40' in length with is longer than what presently exists. Brenna tried to clarify everyone's confusion by adding that the State of NH doesn't consider it a bridge but the Town does, and doesn't believe there is a problem using the funds. John Wengler asks if we can amend terminology to culvert. Lew said no it cannot be amended. Victor Pepin asked what the guardrails will look like. Mike Tarr replied with the same metal guardrails that are there now. Tom Buttrick makes an amendment to add \$40,000 to **potentially** come from the Nelson Bridge Repair or Replacement Expendable Trust Fund **if allowed** for that purpose. Jeff Taylor seconded. Ethan McBrien thinks it should be left as written and the extra words are not needed.

Lew asks for any further discussion.

Lew reads the amended article.

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

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

Article 15: Add funds to the Road 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 12/31/2021 was approximately \$53,402. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Brenna Kucinski and seconded by Maury Collins.

The article **PASSED** on a voice vote

Article 16: 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. This article has anticipated offsetting revenue of \$4,000. The Police Chief recommends this appropriation. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Brenna Kucinski and seconded by Maury Collins.

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

Article 17: Change Town Treasurer from elected to appointed

To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to appoint a town treasurer in accordance with RSA 41:26-e, rather than electing a treasurer. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Brenna Kucinski and seconded Maury Collins.

Brenna speaks to the article stating the reason for the article is because no one has run for treasurer the past two years and this way we can try to find someone in town first, but if not, we are able to look outside of the Town of Nelson to try to find the best candidate to fill the position.

John Wengler thinks we should be trying to increase voting and not decreasing it. Daryl makes the motion to amend the article to read –authorize the selectmen to appoint a treasurer **in the event one has not been elected by the town**. Jeff Taylor seconded. Lew pointed out this is the way it already works. Kathy Schillemat says she supports this article as read and this is not setting a precedent as our highway, police and fire used to be elected but now are appointed. Kathy also added the town did not have a treasurer for a while after John Shea passed and it is no way to run a town. Laurie Smith added it is dictated by the state that the town must have a treasurer. Brenna reiterated that the point is, if no one runs or is elected we have to appoint someone in town, and if we can't find anyone in town qualified and willing to take the job, we are not able to look

outside of our town for the best candidate. Brenna also added there were many open positions this year where no one ran, and treasurer paperwork ends up falling on Edie which is not fair. Keenan Blanchard refers to the RSA and asks exactly what does that say? Lew reads the RSA. Jim Newcombe urged everyone to trust the selectmen to make the right choice. Susan Peery added it is a very specific skill set and it would be best to leave as written to get the most qualified person and best outcome. Daryl withdraws his motion for amendment. Lew back to the article as written.

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

Article 18: 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 2022- a summer learning experience. All children who live in Nelson and are entering 5th-8th grade may attend. The Selectmen recommend this article 3-0.

Motion to accept the article as read was made by Kathy Schillemat and seconded Maury Collins

Margaret Iselin spoke to the article. Bill Dunn says he has never received any help sending his boys although he is not asking for any just asking for clarity on the article. Al Stoops makes the motion to change attend to qualify. Tom Buttrick says it needs to stay as written explaining people have to apply and the application is reviewed before any financial aid is approved. Margaret Iselin explains this same article is presented yearly. Al Stoops withdraws his motion.

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

The business part of the meeting ended at 11:40 am

Respectfully submitted:

A true copy

Attest: Karen Castelli

Karen Castelli, Town Clerk
March 19,2022

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