

Town of Nelson

Budget Caucus 2021 10:00 AM

June 12, 2021

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

Others attending: 25 +/- residents

At 10:00 AM David Upton opened the June 12, 2021 Budget Caucus.

- David reviewed CDC protocols for wearing masks during the meeting now that the Governor's emergency order has expired. As the meeting was outside and chairs distanced, the attendees made a personal decision, as some wore masks and others did not.

- David gave an overview of the Warrant format and then moved into review of the operating budget. During the review he noted the main difference in the administrative budget between last year's approved budget and the 2021 proposed budget is attributed to assessing costs as 2021 is a reval. year and the first payment is due on the grader. These two items account for most of the proposed increase. (\$61,454)

- J. Bunce inquired about the amount of electricity produced. David reported that the current production appears to be very close to the projection that the system was designed for. There is still tracking to be done with Eversource to determine if the accounts are correctly assigned to specific buildings for the maximum benefit.

- M. Tarr responded to a question regarding the paving line in the Highway budget. He indicated that he alternates regular paving maintenance one year with gravel processing the next. This year paving repairs will be on McIntire Road.

- Following the budget review each warrant article was addressed.

- During review of article #6 to add funds to the Town Buildings Capital Reserve Fund, J. Bunce voiced concern that the Solar project from last year was funded from this Capital Reserve Account. He believes that was not the fund's intended use.

David reminded him that two municipal attorneys reviewed the use of those Capital Reserve funds during the development of the warrant article and found it appropriate to the intent of the fund.

- Article review continued and the attendees were reminded, regarding Article #13 Pave the parking area at the Granite Lake Fire Station, that this article appeared on last year's Warrant and M. Tarr suggested at that time that approximately \$7,000 could be saved by paving at the same time that Center Pond Rd. is paved. Last year the article requested approval of \$17,000 and this year the total request is \$10,000.

- J. Bunce spoke to Article #15 proposing a Solar lighted Flagpole for the proper, after dark, display of the American flag. He recalled an occasion when a meeting had ended after dark and a young Veteran became upset that the American flag was not properly lite for display after dark. Bunce spoke to the importance of Town buildings displaying the flag.

"Dark sky" Proponents, while not opposed to displaying the flag, were opposed to any lighting after dark.

When questioned about the existing flagpole on the Town Hall, David noted that multiple, repeated, problems with the flagpole caused it to no longer be used.

- Of the four articles by petition, G. Robinson spoke to #18 giving a brief overview of the potential redistricting issues anticipated due to the latest census.

- P. Beffa-Negrini spoke to #19 calling upon State and Federal elected representatives to enact carbon-pricing legislation. She offered to speak individually to anyone interested in more information or further discussion.

- As the meeting was closing, attention was directed to the tree in front of the Town Hall that is showing increased signs of disease and is now a hazard due to several large decayed limbs threatening the traveled walk area and lawn. The Selectmen will address this as soon as possible.

- With nothing further, Gary made a motion to adjourn.
David seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

11:08 AM Meeting Adjourned.

For June 12, 2021

David Upton, Chair

Maury Collins, Selectman

Gary Robinson, Selectman