

Town of Nelson

Public Hearing & Selectmen's Meeting

August 30, 2017

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

Others attending: Mike Tarr, D. Dellagreca, R. Pratt, K. Tolman, B. Tolman, Mike Cornog, Mary Cornog,

At 3:00 PM David Upton opened the August 30, 2017 Public Hearing to hear comment and discussion regarding the acceptance of a special Highway Block Grant in the amount of \$37,112.88

- Audience discussion focused on the storm clean up on Tolman Pond and Nubanusit Roads.
D. Dellagreca reported that due to the small area of damage that no local, county or state disaster was declared and therefore no funding was available for clean-up.
D. Dellagreca suggested researching the possibility of upgrading the Class VI road that goes through private property for an escape route in the event of another such disaster in that area.
David voiced concern over spending tax money on improvements to private property.
It was questioned whether such a roadway could be deemed an "Emergency Way" and therefore a proper expenditure.

- Mike Tarr would like to see if some of the restrictions for expenditure of the special Block Grant funds could be waived in order to add to projects that may be partially funded already.
Questions will be brought to DRA for further clarification of the scope of the spending restrictions and reporting.

- Hearing no further discussion, Maury made a motion to accept the Special Highway Block Grant funds in the amount of \$37,112.88.
Gary seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

- David then made a motion to close the Public Hearing regarding the Grant.
Gary seconded.
The motion carried 3-0. 3:48 PM

At 3:48 PM the general meeting of the Select Board began.

- All Fire Code projects at the Fire, Police and Highway buildings were reviewed.

- Mike Tarr presented a Purchase Request for 4" stone to repair roadways that have washed away due to recent storms.
Maury made a motion to approve the Purchase Request as presented.
Gary seconded.
The motion carried 3-0. PR # 178301

- Mike and Mary Cornog presented before the Board to discuss the clean-up following the damaging wind event that occurred in the area of Tolman Pond and Nubanusit Roads.
They were informed that no funding was made available due to the small area of damage and no declaration of a disaster.
They voiced concern over the fire hazard due to all of the fallen trees and volume of dead brush.
R. Pratt reported that the Fire Department has made a decision that no burn permits will be issued until there is sufficient snow cover to be safe for burning.
The Cornogs expressed thanks for the help they and their neighbors received during clean-up efforts following the storm.

David explained the responsibilities for tree damage:

1. Eversource if the wires are in danger
2. The Town if a danger within the Town's right-of-way
3. The Town for any portion of a tree on private property that could fall into the Town's right-of-way or into the roadway. (Responsible only for the portion that reaches the road or right-of-way)
4. Trees completely on a property are the full responsibility of the landowner.
5. The Town has little authority to force brush or tree clean-up by a property owner if there is little or no public threat.

● R. Pratt reported that the Fire Department is working on a plan to begin going door to door to gather occupancy information and specific needs in the event of an emergency.

● R. Pratt also reported that the house a house on the Nelson has been abandoned and appears to be under the care of a mortgage company. He has safety concerns regarding this property and would like to verify the responsible parties to take care of the safety issues.

Edie will gather whatever information is available and pass it along to the police department.

● With no response to the Board's letter concerning the Amer/Martin property, the Board referred the matter back to legal counsel for resolution.

● David made a motion to approve the minutes for August 23, 2017.

Gary seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● David made a motion to approve the manifests for August 30, 2017 as presented.

Maury seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

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

Gary seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:00 PM

August 30, 2017

David Upton, Chair

Maury Collins, Selectman

Gary Robinson, Selectman