

Town of Nelson
Selectmen's Meeting
2:30 PM

September 1, 2021

Executive Board Attending: Gary Robinson, Maury Collins, Brenna Kucinski, Edie Drinkwater, Admin. Assist.

Others attending: B. Roland, State Senator Jay Kahn,

At 2:30 PM Gary Robinson opened the September 1, 2021 meeting of the Nelson Select Board.

● Brenna spoke to the Board about the manner of meeting conduct during the Board's last meeting. Areas of concern included meeting protocol and the way she was reprimanded by the Chair for trying to bring an unruly presenter to an understanding of the documents required when requesting a Building Permit. She made clear that all three Selectmen are of equal standing and not only entitled to an opinion but also have a responsibility to speak out when a presenter becomes disruptive and the Chair fails to act. Brenna stated that she felt the Chair's admonishment was a deliberate effort to embarrass her in front of other attendees. She further noted that at another meeting she had been scolded by the Chair for failure to follow the dress code that she had not been made aware of. She also noted that the Chair reversed a previous unanimous decision without discussion and without voting to rescind the first agreement. She requested that proper process be followed going forward and an opportunity for discussion be observed equally for all matters before the Board.

Gary indicated that it was not his intent to embarrass anyone but rather not to tolerate angry words or attacks on individuals.

● Maury made a motion to approve the Public and Non-public minutes of the August 25, 2021 Selectmen's meeting as recorded.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Maury made a motion to approve the manifest for September 1, 2021 as presented.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Following receipt of a new higher bid from the one bidder on the E-ONE Sentry fire truck, Gary made a motion to hold off on a decision and to request that R. Pratt bring the truck to his auto sales lot in Winchester to be displayed for sale over the Holiday weekend.

Maury seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Following the notice of a procedural defect, Gary made a motion to rescind the unanimous agreement by the Board to withhold appointments to the Town Buildings Committee for several months, this having been unanimously agreed to by the Board on August 23, 2021.

Maury seconded.

The motion carried 2-1.

Further discussion brought agreement to keep the committee as previously appointed for now and to direct the Committee to keep its focus only on one current project. (Heat pumps for Town Buildings)
The Board agreed to seek some added membership for the future of the Committee.

● Brenna made a motion to approve and sign a letter to D. and R. Patterson.

Gary seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Brenna made a motion to approve and sign a Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement between the Select Board and the Conservation Commission.

Gary seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

● Maury made a motion to approve a “Doomage” letter to J. Bunce for failure to Report a timber cut.
Brenna seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

Visit from State Senator Jay Kahn

Reports and discussion:

1. Flooding problems of the Ashuelot and Cold Rivers and expected help from FEMA.
2. Flood mitigation plan for Sullivan and Cheshire Counties
3. Broadband issues
4. State Broadband Fund to become available soon
5. New legislation to be introduced to prevent private companies from receiving money in the same manner as the GOFERR grant which resulted in a “Cherry Picking” of some communities as the grant funds ran out.
Barbara Roland, representing the ad hoc Broadband committee in Nelson, came forward with several questions and all were encouraged to write letters of complaint regarding the “cherry picking” that has occurred in Nelson and other small towns following the private company grant awards for Broadband service.
6. Regional Districts – the thought process has begun for providing improved and more cost effective Fire, ambulance, and emergency services to smaller towns with limited funding and personnel.
7. Concerns over reduction of school funding over the next three years.

● Following notice from the ZBA that Zoning variance 3:5 had been granted for the Pearson referral, Brenna made a motion to approve the Building Permit for T. Pearson as previously presented.
Gary seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

● Following a full review of the plans, Gary made a motion to approve a Building Permit for L. Giannattasio for the construction of a new, larger barn to replace a 40'x40' barn previously removed from the same location.
Maury seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

● Following a review of the property map and detailed plans, Brenna made a motion to approve a Building Permit for W. Hollister for the construction of a new barn.
Gary seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

● Following a review of all submitted plans, Brenna made a motion to approve a Building Permit for W. Mackenzie for the construction of a new equipment shed.
Maury seconded.
The motion carried 3-0.

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

4:59 PM Meeting Adjourned.

For September 1, 2021

Gary Robinson, Chair

Maury Collins, Selectman

Brenna Kucinski, Selectman