

**Town of Nelson
Selectmen's Meeting
3:00 PM**

September 21, 2022

Executive Board Attending: Brenna Kucinski, Al Guida, Michael Blaudschun, Edie Drinkwater, Admin. Assist.

Others attending: B. Roland, J. Sarcione

Brenna called the September 21, 2022 meeting of the Nelson Select Board to order at 3:00 PM.

● Brenna opened discussion regarding the charge of the Town Buildings Committee. Concern over the amount of unchecked decay on the library and connector would indicate that the focus of the committee has not been on preserving the buildings but has been on Solar energy production for several years.

Mike suggested keeping the committee but renaming it "Alternative Energy Committee". He further suggested that a new Capital Reserve be established in 2023 for that purpose.

All Selectmen agreed that the repairs to the Library and connector need to be the priority for 2023 and the cost will likely require much of the current funds from the Town Buildings Capital Reserve Fund. The Board agreed it was unwise to support any new solar projects for 2023.

● Brenna made a motion to approve the minutes for September 7, 2022 as recorded.

Mike seconded

The motion carried 2-0. (Al was absent)

● Barbara Roland came before the Board with an update on the progress toward securing improved Broadband availability throughout town. She provided a map showing the areas of town not covered, as well as those covered by either Fibercast or Fidium (Consolidated). While some areas may have options, it is the committee's goal for everyone to fall into at least one coverage zone. Grant options are being considered and researched as incentive for the companies to expand their coverage areas. Grant awards would require some sort of contractual agreement with the Town. So far, test locations have reported improved speed. The committee will continue its work and report back with any progress or available funding.

● Mike made a motion to approve the manifest for September 21, 2022 as presented.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● The annual Audit Letter from the Select Board was signed for submission to Roberts & Greene, PLLC marking the closing of the 2021 audit.

● Bergeron Construction reported that the 6-panel style door on the Safety Building, that needs replacement, is not available. They submitted a substitute, plain surface door with a narrow side glass. (Similar to the other door at the front of the building.) Following a brief discussion, Al made a motion to approve the substitute door.

Mike seconded.

The motion carried 2-1. (Brenna prefers a 6-panel door)

- Brenna reported that she had notified V. Van Meier that the colonial garden needs to be relocated following the recommendation of two contractors that examined the damage to the library building.

V. Van Meier requested a formal vote be taken to record the decision.

Mike made a motion to approve the relocation of the colonial garden to the area near the wooden fence that is well away from the building. (This location has been referred to as the 2nd choice)

Al seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Brenna made a motion to approve the request from the Agricultural Commission to transfer \$100 from their 2022 budget to open an Agricultural Commission, interest bearing, checking account in accordance with RSA 674:44f-g.

Mike seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Following a review of a Report of cut from S. Giffin, Brenna made a motion to approve the Certification of cut and Timber Tax Warrant.

Mike seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- After thorough review of a bid to install roof gutters at the rear of the library and connector, to divert damaging water flow, Al made a motion to approve the “Emergency” area installation along with gutter caps for ease of maintenance. (\$2,302)

Mike seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Mike made a motion to approve a request for 2023 budget funding from Community Volunteer Transportation Co. in the amount of \$250. (This service provides free transportation to anyone in need)

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- With the 1998 Dodge Highway truck in need of costly repairs, and with the availability of grant funds for the full cost of a new truck, Al made a motion to approve the purchase a new 2022, 3500 Dodge dump truck, complete with new plow and sander. (\$77,698)

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Brenna reported that the dehumidifying system in the archives has not been replaced or torn out by the contractors for the new heating system. Bert has reported that heat and humidity is not being properly controlled in the archive room.

Rich will be asked to check on the system when he comes in. If he is unable to solve the issue or is unsure of the problem then Plumbob will be called to evaluate and repair as needed.

- Brenna reported that Zajac is nearly finished with the heating/cooling systems for the Town Hall, Library and Town Office. He will be asked to give a tutorial and an operations card or manual with instructions for use.

- Due to a shortage of available vehicles and the need to purchase a new cruiser in 2023, the Police Chief has been meeting with dealers and has been able to arrange a reservation of a new 2022 Ford Police cruiser. This reservation is contingent upon passage of a Warrant article in March 2023 for the purchase. All funds are anticipated to come from the Police Equipment Capital Reserve with no additional taxation for the purchase.

The Board agreed to draft a letter of commitment to be finalized and signed at their next meeting.

● Brenna reported that the Conservation Commission is considering a Warrant Article in 2023 to make Partridge Woods a “Town Forest”. There has also been preliminary discussion of a possible request to receive all funds collected from timber harvesting. This would be in addition to 100% of the Land Use Change Tax they are now receiving. The Board agreed that some sort of compromise needs to be considered due to the impact on taxpayers if all of this revenue goes to the Conservation Commission.

● Fire Chief, J. Sarcione came before the Board to provide an update of multiple department issues, projects, plans and requests.

- Repairs are now complete on the Rescue vehicle
- There are currently 2 recalls of the vehicle but only need to be addressed if problems occur
- Engine 1 is repaired and back in service
- The tanker is inspected and in service
- The Forestry truck, received from Winchester, needs brakes
- The Fire Chief does not feel that this vehicle provides a useful function and should be considered for return rather than spend money on it. Sarcione noted that this truck is under the authority of the Fire Warden. (A. Ward)
- The Jeep Brush truck is ready to be set up with equipment but this has not been done yet
- The Utility truck is in service and all set
- The Brush truck received from the State has been pending return for several months (or longer) The Board wants this truck returned immediately and Sarcione is to notify the Town office when it is done
- 2 air packs are out of service, 2 are making noise, testing will be over \$300 and repairs are additional with battery packs running about \$150 each. Total cost is unknown until tested
- Two bids came in for hose testing. One company offers a preferred service and is highly recommended.

● Mike made a motion to approve the hose testing by the preferred company at \$2,660.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Eversource training for area Fire departments will be held 9/22/2022 at the Nelson Town Hall from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Eversource will come with a training trailer and personnel.
- Brenna expressed the Board’s concern that the Fire department filled the building’s drainage system (in the Fire Station) with cement without talking to the Selectmen. Sarcione was asked to meet with Mike Tarr for instructions on opening the drain and to do it right away.
- Sarcione reported that the new door to the computer room does not close. The Sexton will be asked to check for a problem and make repairs as needed.
- Next year’s budget will need to include funding for ladder and pump testing

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

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned 5:35 PM

Next meeting: Sept. 28, 2022 at 3:00 PM

Minutes for September 21, 2022

Brenna Kucinski, Chair

Alexander Guida, Selectman

Michael Blaudschun, Selectman