

**Town of Nelson**  
**Selectman's Meeting**

**3:00 PM**

**March 25, 2026**

Executive Board Attending: Brenna Kucinski, Mike Blaudschun, Don Carlisle; Edie Drinkwater, Administrative Assistant, absent

Others Attending: Max Nunemaker, Maury Collins (arrived as we were wrapping up)

Meeting with County Commissioners: Attending Terry Clark, Claudia Stewart

Also Attending: Sheryl Trombly, Cheshire County Finance Director, Chris Coates, Cheshire County Administrator

At 3:00 PM Brenna Kucinski opened meeting of the Nelson Select Board.

The County Commissioners had requested a meeting with us. Chris Coates said they were trying to meet with all the towns in Cheshire County to better explain what County services provided and the expenses related to the services. He had handouts one entitled "Cheshire County at Glance" and the other explained the cost breakdown of the total cost to each town for the services they provide. The Commissioners are looking for better communications regarding County issues and programs they provide. They now have a podcast on their website. The County has 500 employees total. Chris wanted to highlight a few of the programs they support. The first was Maplewood Nursing Home. They recently renovated the home to better serve dementia patients. This need has been increasing. They have 150 beds. 70% are single bed rooms., They have a maximum number of 115 people they can have at the facility due to staffing requirements. They, like everyone else are having a hard time finding nursing staff. They have a waiting list of 100 people. The assisted living portion of the facility have 20 apartments. They use biomass for heat and water with propane back.

He then went on to discuss the Department of Corrections. They have 115 inmates. 70 are local, the rest are federal. He stated that the federal inmates generate \$120 a day for the facility).

EMS was discussed next. They have 5 ambulances that are available 24 hours a day. They have a paramedic intercept that is also available 24 hours a day if needed. 19 communities are on contract for this service. He stated that they have applied for a new ambulance. The wait time for this is 2 years. They also provide a wheelchair service through a partnership with Smart Ride. They average 40 runs per day. Residents pay for the service. They also have an EMS training department.

Their Connected Families program deals with children at risk of out of district placement. These are cases where children are pushed out of the home due to problems with the family environment. It can cost a community \$200,00-\$500,000 when this occurs. They provide people trained to work with the home to keep the children there. The daily rate is paid for through the state. They have 29 staff currently.

The Sheriff's Department is under their jurisdiction. Truency for Keene Middle School and all of SAU29 is dealt with by the department. Chris talked about how many towns now employ the Sheriff's department when they can either not afford their own department or cannot find police officers. We discussed ongoing issues with residents who would prefer this service vs the continued support for our full time Chief.

Cell towers have been a concern and they partnered with Motorola on a 4.4 million dollar project to update cell towers in Cheshire County. They thought the area would be set for 15-20 years with the improvements that were made.

Grant programs are a major part of their work. They help with 38-41 grants per year. It generates between 13-16 million dollars for the county. They offer a grant writing program run by a teacher from the Montessori School for Keene. We noted a Nelson resident took this program two years ago. They can help towns with issues with grants.

They have a handyman program that helps folks with the widening of doorways, installation of ramps, and things of this nature for older folks who want to stay in their home but need some improvements in order to stay. They have \$40,000 set aside per year. They obtain referrals from Cheshire Medical.

Sheryl Trombly, Finance Director for Cheshire County, spoke about the financial aspects of what they do. She stated that much is statutorily required such as the Sheriff's Department and jail. This takes up 85.6% of what they do. She explained that Medicaid patients in nursing homes or receiving at home care is paid 50% by the county and 50% by the federal government. This amounts to 8 million dollars in services per year. She provided us with a chart that explained the total cost of the services of Cheshire County with a breakdown of what percentage each town pays. She explained that the reevaluation every 5 years helps to equalize what each town pays. Nelson for example is responsible for 1.5855% of the cost.

At 4:00 pm Brenna made a motion to leave the public session and go into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II ( ) Personnel

Mike seconded  
Mike voted yes  
Don voted yes  
Brenna voted yes

Brenna made a motion to seal the minutes.

Mike seconded

Mike voted yes

Don voted yes

Brenna voted yes

Motion to Adjourn by Mike at 4:30 pm

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Brenna Kucinski, Chair

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Michael Blaudschun, Selectman

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Don Carlisle, Selectman