

**Special Town Meeting
Town Hall
Town of Nelson, NH
November 23, 2013**

The meeting was opened at 10:04 am by Richard Church, the town moderator. In attendance were the Selectboard: David Upton, Maury Collins and Susan Hansel; Edie Drinkwater, administrative assistant; Julia Lennon, Town Clerk and Bud French, Chief, Fire Department and members of the Fire Department, along with the general public. The business before the town is to see if the town will vote on naming the Board of Selectmen to act as agents for the fire equipment Capital Reserve Fund. The motion was so moved by David Upton to approve the article as read. Discussion then followed. D. Upton asked for the town's support in doing just as the article states to grant the selectboard the authority to expend the funds from our Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund. David Upton further stated how the highest priority for the selectboard is to the issues of public safety and to the safety of our employees and volunteers that serve the town. This can be attained through proper training and equipment both of those components support each other. The Selectboard realized last spring that the basic level of training needed to be provided for our chief, the deputy chief and other members of the fire department. Bud French has arranged that training which is composed of 2 segments and as of today 10 Nelson Fire Department member wish to attend this training. The town's budget has adequate funds for this training which is about \$6,000. About a month ago Bud French reported to the Board that he did not have adequate funds for PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for the FD members that wished to take the training course. One of the options considered was to call this special meeting to request the town's approval to use the Capital Reserve Fund prior to the March Town Meeting. Since then equipment has been offered to Nelson's FD by the town of Hampton and the Fire Academy. However, the equipment will have to be purchased in the near future and it makes more sense to utilize the Fund to purchase them now. David Upton presented a breakdown of the Capital Reserve Fund. Funds are available for present and future needs. Rick Church asked if there was any further discussion. Elaine Giacomo asked if at town meeting in March the use of the Capital Reserve Fund can be returned to it's original format. Rick Church responded that this had been done in the past. He then gave a brief discription of how the Capital Funds work. The state allows the town to name agents to expend the funds for a stated purpose in between meetings. Once the SB is given this authority it can then be taken back at the next town meeting. Bud French then spoke to how it's the FD's intent to return the authority to the town at the March Town meeting. The fund has to be used now so that the FD will be

compliment with insurance requirements. French then spoke to the issue of these insurance and training requirements. He then gave a brief demonstration of the past and current properties of PPE (Personal Protection Equipment).

Tom Murray asked that in order to keep this equipment up to date is it more financially feasible to purchase fire equipment every year or every 10 years. BFrench provided examples of how other towns of different sizes handle this concern. There is a 10 year shelf life for PPE's.

Max Nunnemaker asked if we should assign the writing of this warrant article now. David Upton said that the selectboard would write the warrant article and will schedule for that to happen sometime in January.

Rick Church then explained the process of selecting the selectboard as agents. A motion was then made to name the Town of Nelson's Selectboard as agents for the Capital Reserve Fund. A vote was called for and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Lennon

Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Date Signed _____

David Upton, Selectboard Chair _____

Maury Collins _____

Susan Hansel _____

