

Town of Bartlett  
Office of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 2, 2020  
Meeting via Zoom

Attendees: Chairman Gene Chandler, Selectman Vicki Garland, Selectman August Vincent

Meeting opened at 2:32 p.m.

Chairman Chandler and Selectman Vincent attended the meeting in person. Selectman Garland attended via Zoom.

Selectman Garland came to Town Hall on Tuesday 12/1/2020 to sign checks, letters and building permits. Chairman Chandler and Selectman Vincent signed items throughout the meeting.

Ron Aquino spoke about a letter he received regarding the new section of fence on his property located on Saco Ridge Road (6DSACOR/11/SAO and 6SACOR/11A/SAO). Mr. Aquino explained the history of the existing fence and stone wall. Mr. Aquino explained the history of his concerns over the condition of Saco Ridge Road that he has expressed over the last four years to Road Agent Chick. Mr. Aquino expressed concerns that the fence is an issue due to his requests to have the road repaired and requested that the board come meet with him to view the road and fence. Chairman Chandler told Mr. Aquino that they will come look at both and get back to him.

Peter Gagne asked about the status of his building permit application for a new storage building at 1328 US Route 302 (5VILLG/MAI/520). Chairman Chandler explained that the new building needed to meet the 50 foot setbacks on the sides as shown on a previously submitted plan he submitted with a prior permit. Mr. Gagne asked about using a tent behind the existing building for this winter. The tent would be less than 400 square feet. Chairman Chandler explained that as long as the tent was behind the existing building and no closer to either the road or the side setbacks than the existing building, he would be fine. Selectman Garland reminded Mr. Gagne to make sure he was following other fire safety measures despite the tent being smaller than 400 square feet, for example using heaters.

Mr. Gagne asked if building permit applications submitted to the board could be reviewed during the meeting so people would know what was happening in town. Selectman Garland expressed concern that if permits were only reviewed at the meeting, it could slow the process down. Currently selectmen stagger their time at the Town Hall and will address permits as they come in and are ready for review. Selectmen agreed to try to list the building permits reviewed at the end of the minutes each week.

Mr. Gagne asked if the board has considered increasing the fees for building permits. He feels that our fees are too low. Chairman Chandler responded that the plan is to review all town fees and make adjustments.

Kevin McEnaney expressed continued concerns regarding building permit reviews, technology, government transparency, Bartlett utilizing Jackson's methods of town government, being able to see the board at the meetings and the website. Selectman Garland responded to his concerns and pointed out that other state agencies and other towns are experiencing the same items. She also recommended that more people attend the Bartlett School District monthly Zoom meetings (the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm) since 70 percent of our tax dollars goes to support the schools. All agencies are learning how to make remote meetings more effective and inclusive. Selectman Garland also recommended they pursue this by creating a warrant article for upgrades.

Mr. Gagne asked when the budget process would start and if there can be a line item for technology. Chairman Chandler told him the budget process will start soon.

Many unidentified people spoke about receiving draft minutes prior to the minutes being approved.

Bill Ballou spoke about the website and committing funds to technology.

Julia King spoke about creating a feasibility study committee to address technology.

Mr. Gagne asked if the new police cruiser from the current budget has been purchased. Chairman Chandler replied that it has been purchased.

Mr. Gagne asked about the Conservation Commission openings and their meetings. Chairman Chandler told him that one opening has been filled. Their meetings have been posted on their part of the town website. They last met 11/10/2020 and are meeting 12/10/2020.

Chairman Chandler reported that Fire Chief Currier has requested permission to attend Fire Inspector I training from 1/19/21 to 3/30/21 at a cost of \$200. This was approved.

Chairman Chandler reported that we have found a company to supply us with a loader with a lease with an option to purchase until town meeting in March 2021. The voters can decide in March to approve the lease/purchase agreement. If it is not approved we will have only paid for a four month lease.

Chairman Chandler reported that the Supervisors of the Checklist meeting on Friday, December 4, 2020 has been cancelled due to a possible COVID issue.

Chairman Chandler reported that the town has received a payment in the amount of \$66,035.12 from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for work on the Saco River and Rocky Branch. Coleman's has received some payment for work along with HEB Engineers.

Mr. Ballou asked if the loader lease/purchase could be approved for all 3 to 5 years at one town meeting and not be brought up each year. Chairman Chandler replied it is the state rule that it needs to be approved yearly.

Selectman Garland made a motion at 3:33 p.m. to enter nonpublic session for discussion of request for aid per NH RSA 91-A:3, II (c) request for aid. Selectman Vincent seconded the motion.

Roll call vote GGC – yes, VLG - yes, ADV – yes.

Selectman Garland made a motion at 3:57 p.m. to end the nonpublic session. Selectman Vincent seconded the motion.

Roll call vote GGC – yes, VLG - yes, ADV – yes.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Miller  
Secretary

Building Permits Issued:

12/2/2020 6SACOR/32/HR2 – Porcaro – New House

12/2/2020 2BIRCH/65/00 – Mudgett – Home Industry