

Town of Bartlett Office of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes: June 11, 2018

Attendance: Chairman Gene Chandler, David Patch, Vicki Garland

Visitors: Erik Corbett, Barry Trudeau, Kevin McEnaney, Darlene McEnaney, Brian Otis

Reporters: Tom Eastman, Conway Daily Sun

Meeting opened at 03:35 PM.

June Bard and Jerry Mitchell (Gonya residence -104 US RT 302-2RT302-54-R00) met with the Selectmen in reference to water bills they are receiving from Lower Bartlett Water Precinct. Their water has been shut off since the flooding on October 30, 2017 and they can't live at the residence due to mold, etc. They keep receiving water bills for over \$400.00 plus penalties. At first the bill was for \$200.00 and it is now over \$400.00 with penalties. They have spoken to Supervisor, Gary Chandler of the Lower Bartlett Water Precinct, about the bills and getting no where with him. Mitchell also spoke to Gary Chandler about the damage the water precinct did to his deck that had floated around to the front of the house during the flooding. It was out of the States right of way but when the precinct plowed out the fire hydrant they ran into it and damaged the deck. Selectman Patch stated that he believed that since they are not part of the precinct they have to pay an annual fee which is probably what the bill is for. Chairman Chandler inquired if they had seen the letters that the town had written to Mr. Gonya, the homeowner, concerning the water bill issue. Mitchell replied that they had not. (Copies of the letter were given to them.) Chairman Chandler also mentioned that the precinct is on their own. Mitchell replied that the water precinct told him to come see the Selectmen. Chairman Chandler stated that the Selectmen will write a letter to the precinct but can't promise it will do any good. Selectman Patch commented that we have no power over the precinct as they are their own entity. Mitchell said that he would like this bill squashed. Selectman Garland looked at the bill and commented that they aren't charging for water, it appears to be the semi-annual bill.

Angela Huertas, Patsy Rogerson, Bill Fabrizio, Linda Bernard, and Val Rothen of the Saco River Ad Hoc Flood Committee met with the Selectmen. Fabrizio stated that he is concerned about the River Street Bridge, 2nd Iron and Cobb Farm Road. He stated that it is an issue of safety as there are 130 homes there with an average of three people to a home. There is a surgeon and two nurses that may be isolated and not able to get out. Another concern is residential development as there is property that is being subdivided and more homes to be built. Accessibility could be an issue as well as a decrease in property values. Bernard commented that FEMA may step in and buy out people's homes/property. Fabrizio stated that the River Street Bridge as well as two levies are important issues. Bernard commented that cleaning the cobble would be like pissing in the wind and won't help as the debris and trees will take out the bridge. Fabrizio mentioned that the cobble is about three and a half feet high and it had been down to nothing after being fixed after Tropical Storm Irene. He would like to see the cobble put back on the levies. Huertas commented that Razor Brook had been five feet high during this storm. Rogerson stated that caused more force on the bridge instead of it being a steady flow and the bridge needs to be raised and two extra culverts need to be put in.

Fabrizio said that the levy failed since no maintenance work has been done for the thirty years he has lived there. Chairman Chandler reminded him that they were repaired after Tropical Storm Irene. Fabrizio stated that it was implied that after FEMA did their walk through that they would speed through the permit process as an emergency and would remove the trees and debris. Rogerson commented that there is money for the debris clean up as soon as the permit is applied for. Bernard inquired as to what the office is doing. Chairman Chandler stated that we call every week and he handed out the latest FEMA status report to everyone.

McEnaney inquired as to a ball park figure to fix the levy. Chairman Chandler reminded them that FEMA has not said they will pay for this. We understand that it is frustrating but we have to wait for FEMA. Fabrizio stated that waiting for FEMA is not an option as they can't afford to wait. As Town Fathers you need to call a special town meeting to raise the money. (Selectman Patch got called out of the meeting by his regular job to attend to a problem.) Bernard said that she is willing to have her taxes go up as others will benefit. McEnaney inquired as to how much money are we talking. Chairman Chandler stated that we appropriated \$400,000.00 for flood damage repairs for the town's match which is 25% of Federal Disaster Relief Fund bond so that means the estimated cost is somewhere around 1.6 million. Rogerson suggested calling Perry Plummer, (Director, NH HSEM) again and get a permit for this disaster. Chairman Chandler reminded her that it has not been declared a disaster. Huertas inquired about the six new house lots that are being developed if they can get building permits. Chairman Chandler stated that they can if they are not in the flood plain. Fabrizio inquired if we shouldn't budget each year to maintain the levies so as to be proactive. (Chairman Chandler apologized and excused himself as he had a prior commitment to go to.) Selectman Garland mentioned that FEMA isn't going to do anything in Harts Location to help with the problem. Fabrizio stated that maintaining the levies falls on the town to do. Selectman Garland replied that the town road crew can't do this; it needs to be hired out. McEnaney commented that the disasters they have had in Texas and Puerto Rico are probably compounding the problem but he feels a special town meeting should be called. Rogerson will make some calls to Perry Plummer, Director of NH HSEM, and see what she can work out concerning permits, etc. Lynn Jones, AA, showed the group some of the many informational worksheets that the State has been asking for for each department concerning the flooding. We have been dropping everything to provide the information to them in a timely manner. It is thanks to Mr. Chandler being in Concord that we are getting this much of the process done as this is a lot of work. Rogerson stated that this is good to know and that we are all on the same page as she had no idea this was being done. McEnaney asked if the frequent phone calls works. Jones stat we need to let them do their job or they will say that's's it and not give us all we need or want. We need to work together and have patience.

The Selectmen signed checks, reviewed building permits and correspondence throughout the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 04:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Medeiros, Sec.