

Town of Bartlett Office of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes: November 6, 2017

Attendance: Chairman Gene Chandler, Jonathan Hebert

Absent: David Patch

Visitors: K. McEnaney, B. Trudeau, S. Grant

Reporters: None

Meeting opened at 03:30 PM.

George Howard (2RT302-60-R01) believes that the assessors have mixed up his fields as nothing has changed and yet the value went from \$28,000.00 to \$82,000.00. His access is off Route 302, it is not private. Selectman Hebert inquired if he had called when the assessors were meeting with people to go over their concerns. Howard replied, no. The description doesn't make sense. Chairman Chandler suggested that he file for an abatement after he receives his tax bill and by March 1, 2018 as even if he is right there is nothing we can do now as the period for changes to assessments has closed. Howard wants to know why it changed and why he can't talk to the assessor as the property is in current use and he wants information on why it changed. Chairman Chandler stated we would ask but the assessor is done. Howard wanted to know when he would hear something. Selectman Hebert replied this week.

Howard questioned where his request for a water line to go to the top of the Glen cemetery stands. Selectman Hebert explained that they have spoken to the Lower Bartlett Water Precinct and they are working with us. We need to have a trench put in. Howard asked when that will be done. Chairman Chandler replied in the spring. Howard also complained about the condition of the road. Chairman Chandler replied that we need to haul some gravel in but right now the town crew is very busy from the recent flood. Howard doesn't feel the Selectmen are acting on either situation. Selectman Hebert replied that we have laid the foundation with LBWP and we are moving forward.

Police Chief Keaton met with the Selectmen and gave them paper work on what other departments are paying their police officers. He would like the Selectmen to set the rate for new hires as \$41,000.00 while attending the academy, \$1,000.00 after they graduate from the academy and another \$1,000.00 after their probation period is over for a total of \$43,000.00. He has four people interested in the position but we are the lowest paying department in the state so he would like to raise the wage. He is planning on setting up interviews for next week and would like to know what to tell the candidate. Selectman Hebert inquired if he has looked at his budget. Keaton stated that he should be fine as he has the money left from Sgt. Sheehy leaving the department.

Keaton also gave the Selectmen a uniform equipment form which shows that to fully outfit an officer the cost is \$3,783.00. The cost without a weapon is \$3,298.00.

Chairman Chandler inquired don't we have uniforms that have been turned in to the department. Keaton replied that he doesn't know what size the new officer will need.

Selectman Hebert inquired if Keaton had attended the Police Chiefs meeting and brought to their attention the concern of undercutting agencies. Keaton stated that he didn't attend last months meeting but he will bring it up at the next meeting. Keaton would like to increase the vacant Sgt. Position, the Corporal position, and the level II Officer by

\$4,000.00 as they might stay with Bartlett if their salaries went up. Chairman Chandler stated that can be discussed for next year's budget. Selectman Hebert commented that by next week we would have a decision on the wage for the new hires.

Patsy Rogerson (5COBFM-55L-W3E) would like an update about the condition of the dike on Cobb Farm road. Chairman Chandler informed her that he, the Fire Chief, and Emergency Director were meeting with FEMA tomorrow. Selectman Hebert also mentioned that the town has applied for emergency permits and we have done what we can do for now. Rogerson stated that it will take a while to fix as the dike hasn't been maintained and she is concerned about her house. Chairman Chandler stated that we will try but we don't know what we are going to do yet as we can't do anything we can't get reimbursed for. Rogerson requested that we keep her posted.

Linda Mason (1Alpen-38-0) noticed when she received her property value letter from the assessors that she is being charged for one and a half acres and she only owns one half acre. Chairman Chandler explained that after she receives her tax bill that she needs to file for an abatement prior to March 1, 2018. Mason inquired as to why they can't just send her a corrected bill. Chairman Chandler stated that they can't do that as the town is submitting the figures to the State for review and the new tax rate will be set in the next few weeks. Chairman Chandler instructed her to send a letter with her abatement request for this year which explains the situation. Mason inquired about the past years bills that were incorrect that she paid. Chairman Chandler requested that she send another letter for the past years and we will check into it. Selectman Hebert commented that there are a lot of questions to be answered since this has been going on for seventeen years but she should start with this year as this is a learning experience for everyone but we will get to the bottom of this.

Bill Duggan (2RT302-55-R00) stated that this is the second time around that his house has been flooded and he can't do anything until he finds out what is happening to the Rocky Branch river.

Selectman Hebert stated that we have applied for permits and there is a lot of input between the State of NH and the Town. Duggan remarked that the river needs to be dredged. Chairman Chandler explained that we tried to obtain more money to do more work to the river the last time this happened but we were turned down. Selectman Hebert stated that we need to have a hydrological study done to figure out the best thing to do but in the meantime we are doing what we can. Duggan inquired what is happening to the values on the house as they should go down so does he get a break for these issues. Selectman Hebert stated that FEMA will produce a history and determine if this is a long lasting issue. Duggan replied that the taxes don't go down. Selectman Hebert stated that is an abatement issue. Selectman Hebert mentioned that there is a meeting with FEMA tomorrow to get some direction and to see what they will do. Selectman Hebert also questioned as to whether we should get the planning board involved. Chairman Chandler stated that he isn't opposed but he doesn't think so as this is a FEMA issue and they replace what was there. Chairman Chandler said that we are looking for a long term fix for the Rocky Branch River. Scott Grant who is a member of the planning board will see if they feel they should be involved. Duggan mentioned that we need at least a temporary patch before winter and that sloping needs to be done. Duggan's second concern is the John Cliffe property (2RT302-50-R00) as this property was a mess before the flood and this can't continue. This is an environmental hazard as Duggan's garage was like an oil slick and he believes it came from that property. Duggan stated that Cliffe is a hoarder and it is hurting the property values. Duggan wanted to know why something isn't being done. Scott Grant suggested that the zoning ordinance be changed. Duggan stated that it is taking the property values away and there are a lot of beds there as well as the camper is full and this isn't right. Selectman Hebert suggested that if Duggan sees something he should report it. Selectman Hebert commented that they will take a closer look. Duggan inquired what can be done. Selectman Hebert said maybe we need to ask our attorney that question. Duggan inquired about the junk cars in the yard. Chairman Chandler stated that he thinks you can have up to three unregistered cars.

McEnaney commented that was an issue on the West Side road and it would be nice if it at least had trees planted for a barrier. Chairman Chandler stated that there is no ordinance against junky yards. You would need to change the ordinance. Duggan inquired if the ordinance was changed would the property be grandfathered. Chairman Chandler replied that he did not know, we would have to ask our attorney and pictures need to be taken and a letter written. Duggan stated that he is trying to be proactive as this is an environmental mess.

Fire Chief L. Patrick Roberts met with the Selectmen to let them know that they had opened the emergency command center and shelter at the Glen Fire Station. They also opened the Bartlett shelter. They were under staffed but people couldn't get to the center because of the road flooding/conditions. All in all it went well and no one was hurt. They did have four water rescues. The Red Cross had two teams that came to assist. Selectman Hebert inquired as to what was learned from this. Roberts stated that it would be nice if the shelter and command center were separated and they needed more people to answer the phones. He would like a better way to alert people. Selectman Hebert stated that we need to follow the plans that we have in place. Roberts also mentioned that he would like to purchase equipment like life preservers and have a class on water rescue training. Roberts commented that overall we had a good response but he does feel bad for those who lost their homes. Duggan commented that the rivers up North in the mountains filled up so it all came down to us. Selectman Hebert commented that Roberts did a good job.

Roberts also mentioned that BJ Ambulance is having problems filling their schedule and he wanted to know if he is available can he respond. Chairman Chandler stated that the original intent was that if a call came in and he was at the station that he would take the ambulance to the scene and meet personnel there so they wouldn't have to drive to the station and then back to the incident. It would save time if Roberts was available to go. He could take the ambulance to the scene and then take one of the responders vehicles back to the station. Selectman Hebert commented that life safety is the main concern. Roberts inquired if he could respond to Jackson. The Selectmen were ok with this.

Lynn Jones, AA, let everyone know that Frederick "Rick" Treiss, NH Planning Coordinator of Team Rubicon is available to help flood victims clean out their flooded homes. The phone number is 603-915-3583.

Lynn Jones, AA, inquired if it was ok to put the Avitar assessing disc on the web site. The Selectmen gave her permission to do this.

The Selectmen signed checks, reviewed building permits and correspondence throughout the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 05:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Medeiros, Sec.