

Town of Bartlett Office of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes: June 28, 2013 – Selectmen’s Meeting

Attendance: Chairman Gene Chandler, Douglas Garland, David Patch

Reporters: None

Meeting opened at 08:30 AM.

David Ainsworth, Commissioner Bartlett Village Water Precinct, met with the Selectmen in reference to the water bill that the Selectmen had received from them for \$2724.88. Ainsworth stated that they didn’t charge for the base rate but because of the abnormal use they had to charge for the usage. Ainsworth had asked to have the meter read and they discovered that there was a valve that was improperly shut off which caused the high usage. Chairman Chandler stated that we have never received a bill before and therefore hadn’t budgeted for it nor did we have any idea there was a leakage. Ainsworth stated that the precinct is not responsible for leakages and they are 75% in arrears for collections. Ainsworth also commented that the sprinklers were on last year when it was raining out and were left on day and night. Selectman Garland stated that they weren’t on every day, only at night except for one time when he forgot to shut them off. Ainsworth stated they shouldn’t water during the day as it doesn’t do any good and just wastes water. Chairman Chandler inquired as to why we never received a bill before. Selectman Garland also said we had never received a bill. Ainsworth said town should have. Selectmen responded that “should have” doesn’t equate to a bill and it is hard to pay or discuss something we “should have” gotten but never have. Selectman Garland commented that he would think that the precinct would be happy with the town as we sponsored them so they could do the USDA water project on Albany Avenue and receive funding and without our sponsorship they couldn’t have done it. Ainsworth stated that it costs them money and he has no idea why we hadn’t received bills in the past but he is trying to straighten this out and get the bills sent out every four months. Selectman Patch commented that if the valve was open and had been leaking over a long time we would have seen it if there had been regular billing. Ainsworth stated that they wouldn’t charge the \$145.00 base rate every four months but would charge for what is used. Ainsworth mentioned that he would agree to knock 25% off the bill and send regular bills from now on. Selectman Garland commented that your inefficiency of billing is not our problem. Chairman Chandler stated that we have never been charged in the past and the other two Commissioners, Matt Howard and Bob Blake had stated that we wouldn’t be charged. We should have been notified when this changed so that we could decide if we wanted it or not. Selectman Patch stated that we can’t pay a bill that we never received. Selectman Garland commented that he would like to see the town and the precinct get along and he would be willing to pay a reduced bill and start paying for water from now on. Selectman Garland requested that Ainsworth take this back to the rest of the commissioners to see what they say. Ainsworth said the other commissioners gave him permission to settle this and he didn’t have to take it back to them. Chairman Chandler stated that we would discuss this further and get back to the precinct commissioners. Ainsworth stated that we can’t give water away. Selectman Patch stated that he agreed with that and is willing to start paying. Ainsworth agreed that the billing process in the past has been wrong and that from now on the town would receive a statement every four months. Ainsworth stated

that he would be willing to knock 40% off the bill, but that is it. Chairman Chandler stated that we would discuss this further and get back to the precinct. A letter will be written and sent to the precinct.

Police Chief Timothy Connifey requested to enter nonpublic session to discuss a personnel issue. Chairman Chandler made a motion at 09:45 AM to enter nonpublic session to discuss the personnel issue with Connifey per NH RSA 91-A 3 II (a). Selectman Patch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Selectman Garland made a motion at 10:05 AM to end the nonpublic session and to seal the minutes. Selectman Patch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Fire Chief L. Patrick Roberts met with the Selectmen to keep them informed of the following:

- 1.) The new radio has been installed at the Bartlett Village fire station and the old antenna is being used and appears to be ok.
- 2.) There are issues with the ladder truck and although it will be in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade it will not be flying the flag in the park as it has in the past.
- 3.) Roberts inquired if it was ok to start the work on the lights and painting that needs to be done at the fire stations. The Selectmen were ok with this and Selectman Garland will be taking a look at the projects.
- 4.) Chairman Chandler informed Roberts that he is still waiting to hear from Forest Ranger Robert Boyd on the decision made concerning the payment for the fire at Attitash last summer. He will keep Roberts updated.

Selectman Garland made a motion at 10:20 AM to enter nonpublic session to discuss a request for aid under NH RSA 91-A 3 II (c). Chairman Chandler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Selectman Garland made a motion at 11:00 AM to end the nonpublic session and to seal the minutes. Selectman Patch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Medeiros, Sec.