

TOWN OF BARTLETT SELECTMEN'S OFFICE

MINUTES: Monday, October 5, 2015 – Selectmen's Meeting

ATTENDANCE: Selectmen Gene G. Chandler, Chair; Jonathan Hebert; David A. Patch was absent but arrived later during the Bartlett Jackson Transfer Station Meeting

REPORTERS: None

VISITORS: Erik Corbett, Ray Mitchell, Norman Head

Meeting opened at 3:30PM.

Bookkeeper Brenda Medeiros (who was absent due to illness) asked for confirmation via memo of the rate of pay for the volunteer on-call firefighters for the Bartlett Fire Department. Chandler stated that the chart that was presented to him by Medeiros and Fire Chief Roberts was correct and that they also still get the attendance bonus, however, the officers no longer get a stipend as it is now included in their rate of pay. AA Jones will give this info to Medeiros so that she can process the checks.

Erik Corbett asked if the Selectmen had made any decision regarding the Veterans Housing Clinic that was being proposed in a presentation given by Dorothy Soloman a month or so ago. Chandler and Hebert both stated no and Hebert went on to say that by the time the full Board met again after that presentation that apparently the County had already made their decision.

Chandler reported that he had a conversation with Road Agent Travis Chick regarding the road issues in Linderhof as part of the Lower Bartlett Water Precinct project and he estimated the 600 ft of road under discussion would cost approximately \$20,000 to complete. Chandler stated that we were waiting for information from AJ Coleman Inc. on how much of a credit we were getting to determine whether to proceed.

Town Clerk Tax Collector Cheryl Nealley met with the Selectmen to review the unpaid taxes and pending tax deeds that she had discussed with them back in August. Final deadline for payment to prevent deeding is today (10/5/15) and she has collected over \$100,000 in back taxes to date on several properties. She provided a revised list of delinquent taxes to the Selectmen. She also explained that she has made payment agreements with some taxpayers in that they had to put a substantial deposit down and then the balance payment arrangement had to be paid up within a year. AA Jones asked if these agreements were in writing with the taxpayer. Nealley stated that in checking with other surrounding towns, they indicated that their town counsel did not recommend having a written arrangement but she didn't know why. Hebert stated it is because if they do a contract or written agreement, then you are basically starting all over again with a "new contract" for payment and the original basic requirement to pay the taxes becomes secondary and hard to collect. Chandler disagreed that the Tax Collector had the authority to make payment arrangements. Nealley said that she was told she could because we give her the warrant to collect a certain amount of money and it is up to her to collect it in whatever manner works. However, once it is tax deeded to the town, she can no longer get involved and the Selectmen can then make the arrangements if they want. Nealley stated that she had a mortgage search done by a professional company and feels she is on firm ground with her information. Hebert verified that any payment agreement she made was intended to have it paid off within a year. Nealley affirmed this saying she gets a lump sum up front and then divides the balance by 12 to get the monthly payment. If they fail to comply, she can immediately deed it to the town. Nealley stated that the fact that these taxpayers owe money should be no surprise to them as there are at least 4 different notifications that go to the taxpayers indicating that they owe taxes. After those 4 notices, a lien is then recorded. Under State law, Selectmen have the right of refusal on certain types of tax deeded properties and they will review the properties to see if there are any that they will not accept tax deeds

for from the Tax Collector. Ray Mitchell asked if the property is put up for sale by the town, what does the town get. Chandler stated that depending on how long the town has held the deed, they can get taxes, costs, interest and possibly 15% of the assessed value (depending on how long the town has held the deed). Any amount over this must be returned to the original property owner if they are known or can be found.

Norman Head of the Bartlett Historical Society wanted to inquire about the cemetery that is located on the McManus property at 1444 US Rt. 302 (5RT302-15R00). Head stated that there is a class at school that wants to clean up the cemetery but McManus says he won't allow access to it or he will shoot them. Head spoke with the Police Chief about it and she says that there has been no criminal activity yet, so she can't do anything at this point. Head just wanted the Selectmen to know this.

Head went on to state that the interpretive plaque has been ordered for the snow roller and he thinks it all worked out for the best with the new location of it in the Village Park. Selectmen agreed and said they thought it looked good in that location and it was nice that the Bartlett Village Precinct Commissioners allowed it to be displayed there.

Police Chief Janet Champlin attended the meeting to update the Selectmen on police activity. She stated they had been dealing with an untimely death in the Ellis River today but that the State Marine Patrol was in charge of this type of activity. She didn't want to release the name of the victim pending notification of family. Other matters were:

- 1) She wanted to publicly acknowledge that Officer Cheryl Harris also got recognized by the Firefighters Association for her efforts during the Woodland Pines fire that two local firefighters received awards for recently. Chief will be putting a letter in Harris' file.
- 2) Officer Mike Chapman has been accepted to go to the police academy in January in order to get certified as a full time officer. He is part time certified now.
- 3) Chief Champlin asked about a policy on fines for false alarms for security systems. She has a unit that has had 6 false alarms since 8/15/15. Chandler stated we do have a policy of “three strikes and then you pay” where if we are called to the same property three times within the year for false alarms, then the property owner will be billed for the response by either fire, police or both. Champlin will provide information to our office for billing if she has any of these.
- 4) Chief Champlin asked about the progress on the new rates for parking violations as she would like to get the tickets printed and fines in place for the winter season. Chandler stated that the Selectmen still needed to review the final amounts and have two public hearings. Discussion ensued on how the town gets the fines rather than the State. Champlin will check at the court and with other towns to see how it works. Champlin found some of the old tickets we used to use and some of the rates were discussed. Champlin stated she felt that the fines should be at least \$50 each except for the handicap parking violation which will follow the State set amount of \$250 and the winter parking should be \$100. It was agreed that towing fees would be additional above any fine and the violator was responsible for that. Selectmen will review the fine schedule and let her know what they come up with.
- 5) Chief Champlin stated that two cruisers need work due to a leak in Car 102 and a front end alignment in Car 104. Selectmen okayed the work.
- 6) Chief Champlin stated that she would be in court all day tomorrow.

Norman Head asked if we had issued many “hands free phone” violations. Chief Champlin stated that they had issued a lot of warnings in the beginning and thinks they have issued about 3 summonses total so far.

Motion was made by Chandler, seconded by Hebert to recess this meeting until after the conclusion of the Bartlett Jackson Transfer Station Meeting that is to start at 5:00PM. Vote = agreed to recess at 4:55PM. (Minutes of the Bartlett Jackson Transfer Station Meeting are filed separately).

Meeting reconvened at 6:15PM. David A. Patch now joined the meeting.

Chandler stated he would be unavailable to meet on Monday, October 19, 2015 and asked if we could meet on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 instead. The other Selectmen agreed. This will be posted in the usual locations.

Selectmen discussed the parking ticket fine schedule. Motion was made by Patch, seconded by Hebert to have all the fines be \$50 (plus towing if applicable). Vote = Passed. Discussion ensued on how the fine works as far as the town getting the fees if the violator is found guilty. Selectmen directed AA Jones to have Chief Champlin check on how we can be sure that the town gets the fines and how the handicap parking fine works since it is set by State law.

Selectmen signed checks, reviewed building permits and correspondence as time permitted throughout the meeting.

No further discussion. Motion was made by Patch, seconded by Hebert to adjourn. Vote = adjourned at 6:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn P. Jones, Admin. Assistant to the Selectmen
(filling in for absent Brenda Medeiros, Secretary)