

Town of Bartlett Office of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes: April 4, 2016

Attendance: Chairman Gene Chandler, David Patch, Jonathan Hebert

Visitors: None

Reporters: None

Meeting opened at 03:30 PM.

Florence Allan of 106 NH RT 16 (1RT016-52-R00) met with the Selectmen in reference to a street sign that she said has been moved onto her property and is now blocking her view. Allan stated that she has lived there for 58 years and the sign was always on the other side of the road. Chairman Chandler stated that he did speak to the road agent and he said they didn't move the sign. Allan replied that it has always been on the left hand side of the road. Selectman Hebert inquired as to what sign. Allan replied the Keith Road sign with a yellow sign attached to it. Selectman Hebert commented that the road ban sign is attached to the road sign and that is the yellow sign she is seeing. Allan stated that she should never have had the tree in her yard cut as she has had nothing but problems ever since. Chairman Chandler stated that he will check further with the road agent. Allan mentioned that in 2013 that she had her land surveyed and she is quite sure that the end of Keith road is becoming wider encroaching onto her property. There also years ago used to be a granite post at the beginning of the road but that has been gone for about nine years now. Chairman Chandler inquired if she received a map when she had the property surveyed. Allan stated that Ammonoosuc Survey did it and she will check with them as she doesn't think they gave her one. Chairman Chandler stated that if she had a map that it would be helpful so if she could obtain one from Ammonoosuc that the Selectmen would take a look at it. Allan will call them and get back to the Selectmen.

Bill Ballou of 123 Birch Ledge Road (2GLENL-181-BW07) dropped into the meeting as he had asked a question at town meeting and he wasn't satisfied with the answer to his question on special article #2 concerning \$400,000.00 for town roads. He would like to know how much should we be spending. What is the acceptable level? He has lived here first part time starting in 1989 and then full time and he sees a general deterioration of the roads. Ballou asked what the road plans are, the condition of roads, desirable work plan, and how much should we be spending. Chairman Chandler replied that we try to be fiscally conservative. Ballou stated that is fiscal irresponsibility. Ballou questioned if we have an inventory, the condition of the road, and any forward looking plans. Chairman Chandler replied that we do have an inventory; we do not have a written report on the road conditions. Ballou inquired as to why would that be as the three of them should have the best interest of the town in mind and do effective management. Ballou inquired how they plan for expenditures two or three years down the road. Chairman Chandler inquired as to why do we need to know 3 years from now. Lynn Jones, AA, stated that we had a road system management plan done and it turned out to be useless. Selectman Patch stated that the road agent has a pretty good handle on the road conditions. Ballou stated you need more than a list of what he wants to do. What is his criteria? Selectman Hebert agrees for the need to form a road plan. Chairman Chandler stated that he rides on the roads a lot and can tell which ones need to be worked on and we try to rebuild as much as possible. Selectman Patch commented that the construction season is a small window. Ballou stated that it is your responsibility as to what direction you are going and there is a lack of forward planning beyond 11 months. The roads need to be brought back to acceptable level and Jackson's roads are better than Bartlett's. Chairman Chandler commented that he didn't know which roads he was driving on in Jackson but the ones he has been on aren't better than Bartlett's. Selectman Hebert stated that he has asked questions about the roads and was told that the road agent, Travis Chick, has a filing system in his office. Chairman Chandler stated that you can only do so many roads each year. Selectman Hebert commented that it would be nice to know what the very worst roads are.

Chairman Chandler stated that Dundee is probably the worst road and he does understand the concerns but he feels that in the last 5-8 years that we have made great progress. He is reasonably comfortable with the road projects. Ballou stated that after the water project was put in on Glen Ledge road that it has not been maintained. There is cracking and the edges are breaking as asphalt only has a five year or so life, so preventive work needs to be done. Chairman Chandler stated they are trying something new this year by using chip sealing. Ballou commented that cold patch is not the answer; they need to do more to preserve the road. Chairman Chandler stated that we do what we can with the amount of money we have as we try to keep an eye on what our taxes are. People on fixed incomes can't afford a big raise in taxes. Ballou commented that a higher tax rate is required to maintain a quality of life. Selectman Hebert stated that we are obligated to provide a service that is reasonable. Selectman Patch commented that he doesn't see that the road agent is doing a bad job. He is not a road engineer but he knows what should be done and how to do it. Chairman Chandler mentioned that the road agent is on the roads all the time. Once again Chairman Chandler stated that we spend what we have. We could spend more but we don't want to see taxes raised. Ballou feels we should raise taxes and contract out the road work so they can get more done. Chairman Chandler and Selectman Patch do not agree with this. Ballou would like the road agent to attend a meeting so he can ask him how he comes up with the roads and what his plans are for the next few years. Selectman Hebert stated that it is the boards' obligation to make the final decision after the road agent makes his recommendations.

Ballou also questioned the amount of money for the special article for the fire truck fund. He believes it is a good idea but wonders if it is the right amount of money. What is the next truck, when are we purchasing it and what is the replacement cost. Chairman Chandler explained that we are waiting to see if we receive a grant for a new truck or not. Selectman Patch stated that the next new truck will probably cost around \$120,000.00 and the 10,000.00 we put in the capital reserve fund was to supplement the \$20,000.00 already there. Chairman Chandler stated that if we will have \$30,000.00 in the fund and if we put that same amount in for the next two years we will have \$90,000.00. Ballou feels it would be better to have a larger capital fund.

Selectman Hebert made a motion at 04:35 PM to enter nonpublic session for a personnel issue with Police Chief Janet Champlin under NH RSA 91-A: 3 II (a). Selectman Patch seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous. Selectman Hebert made a motion at 04:40 PM to end the nonpublic session. Selectman Patch seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous.

Jackson Selectman John Allen joined the meeting and Selectman Hebert made a motion at 04:45 PM to enter nonpublic session per NH RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) to do job interviews for a position at the Bartlett Jackson Transfer Station. Selectman Patch seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous. Three interviews were conducted. Selectman Hebert made a motion at 05:45 PM to end the nonpublic session. Selectman Patch seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous.

Chairman Chandler inquired from the other two Selectmen if they had any problems with the highway department removing the dilapidated porch from the house owned by the town that is located beside the Glen cemetery (2RT302-75-R00). All Selectmen were ok with this.

Chairman Chandler would also like the Selectmen to take a closer look at the parking lot at the town hall when the weather is better (snowy and windy today) to see about having it graded and paved about half way. All the Selectmen felt this would work but will look at it closer on a better weather day.

Police Chief Janet Champlin met with the Selectmen and let them know the following:

- 1.) Jeff Bailey of ATF donated a Sirche fingerprint kit to the Bartlett Police Department.

- 2.) She has spoken to Jake Risch concerning the Inferno race and has informed him that he needs to have detail officers which he says he has contacted the Sheriffs Office and the State Police but hasn't heard back yet. Chairman Chandler instructed Champlin to let Risch know that if he doesn't have detail officers there will be no race. Champlin will let him know this.
- 3.) There is a NIBRS training for two day in June and she would like to send her new secretary, Betsy Rand, to it. It is being held in Concord. The Selectmen were fine with this and will pay Rand her wages and reimburse her for mileage.
- 4.) Champlin has also removed the television from the office so if we are getting charged for the cable service we can now stop paying. (We are not charged).
- 5.) Champlin is also continuing to work on updating the police policies and will present them to the Selectmen when done for their approval.

Champlin requested the Selectmen to enter nonpublic session per NH RSA 91-A: 3 II (a) to discuss a personnel issue. Selectman Hebert made the motion at 06:00 PM to enter nonpublic session. Selectman Patch seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous.

Selectman Hebert made a motion at 06:15 PM to end the nonpublic session and to seal the minutes. Selectman Patch seconded the motion. Roll call vote was unanimous.

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

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 06:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Medeiros, Sec.