

TOWN OF BARTLETT – OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

MINUTES: SELECTMEN'S MEETING – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017

ATTENDANCE: Selectmen Gene G. Chandler (Chair), David A. Patch, Jonathan Hebert

REPORTERS: None

Meeting opened at 3:30PM.

Motion was made by Hebert, seconded by Chandler to enter Non Public Session under NH RSA 91-A:3 II (c). Roll Call Vote: Unanimous. Selectmen met with applicant. Motion was made by Hebert, seconded by Patch to end Non Public Session and to seal the minutes. Roll Call Vote: Unanimous. No decisions made due to need for more information.

Selectmen then moved the meeting to the Meeting Hall due to the number of attendees to discuss flooding issues on Cobb Farm Road. Jeff Rothen spoke for the group who had recently gotten together to discuss the flooding problems that have occurred in their area due to TS Irene and now the most recent storm of October 30, 2017. Rothen stated that the group feels the accumulation of water in the area of Stanton Farm Rd. and Cobb Farm Rd. was a safety issue due to people being cut off from getting out of the area and emergency personnel getting in to the area. The group wants to be part of the solution and help with coming up with a plan in that they feel the problems are becoming worse with each big storm and being a real safety issue especially since there may be significant development still to come on that side of the river. Their ideas expressed by Rothen were: 1) Upstream in the dugway area needs riprap; 2) The dike downstream is pretty much gone except for about 150 ft and needs repair or replacement; 3) The dike upstream is a problem; 4) Concern for where the development is going; 5) River St. bridge may need to be expanded; 6) Consideration of a second access. Rothen asked what the town was planning on doing. Chandler responded that until the last storm is declared a disaster, we can't do much. That declaration will determine how we will proceed not only in this area but with other problem areas like the Rocky Branch. Chandler explained that after TS Irene we tried to get expanded mitigation work done to prevent future problems, but they wouldn't allow us to do it. We have again asked for expanded mitigation this time. We have had representatives of the state up here on three occasions to review the problems but have not heard anything back yet. There is another meeting to be set in early December to discuss the mitigation factor. Hebert explained that within 7 days of the flooding, the town reported all problem areas to them but basically we need a long term study done but this is very expensive. This study needs input from the planning board, fire chief, police chief, road agent and others. All input is welcome. Peg Fish stated that in the area of second iron it appears that a lot of rocks and debris have gathered in the river bed that needs to be dredged out so the river can get back to its normal flow. Patch explained that during TS Irene we asked if we could get a permit to dredge each year near the River St bridge but were denied. Rothen asked who is responsible for the work. Patsy Rogerson asked who owned the dike as she always thought it was the town. Chandler stated that we can find no record that the town owns it nor could the state but the state seems to control it. Hebert asked if she had any proof of it. Rogerson stated she did not, it was just always understood it was the town. Chandler explained that this can get tricky as a lot of the areas involve town, state and private land. He stated that the main areas we are looking at for work are the berms by the dugway and the bridge (Cobb Farm Rd) and Rocky Branch River (along Jericho Rd. and Rt. 302), that we will need a plan with permits, and determine who and how we pay for the work. We are basically on hold until the disaster determination. Can the town do it – yes, but realistically we couldn't pay for it without the government's help. Hebert again stated the importance of long term planning. Sheila Duane, AMSCO, asked if this topic can be kept on the agenda of the Selectmen's meetings under "other business" so people can keep informed.

Rothen asked if there was an estimate of damages. Chandler stated that he doesn't have a total handy as they did it one project at a time and there was also state highway damage that is included in it. Hebert explained that the Rocky Branch issues are tied to US Rt. 302 damage because it affects the state road. Chandler explained that last time FEMA paid 75% and the town paid 25% but we got the state to pay half of our 25% because of the effect on US Rt. 302. Rothen asked about the cost of the last repair of the River St. bridge. Chandler didn't have the exact figure but it was at least \$500,000. Patsy Rogerson asked about short term plans. Chandler stated we don't know right now and permits will have to be obtained. Rogerson asked if she can do anything because the next storm will probably take her house. Hebert stated she needs to contact NH Dept. of Environmental Services for a permit to do her own work. No further discussion.

Kevin McEnaney, MWV Pickleball Club member, asked how they appeal the decision that they cannot have pickleball at the Club at Christmas Mountain. It was explained that their application needs to be denied (which was done), then they can apply to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for either a variance or appeal from administrative decision. If they get ZBA approval, they then must go back to the Selectmen for a permit to insure compliance with any conditions set forth by the ZBA as well as the rest of the applicable sections of the Zoning Ordinance (eg. parking, lighting, etc.).

Fire Chief Pat Roberts met with the Selectmen re: 1) the need to have someone to shovel/plow the Fire Stations and Town Hall. Apparently, Rick Murnik no longer has his truck and cannot do it although we have not been informed by him that he is not doing it. Selectmen agreed that FC Roberts will maintain the fire stations for a fee until we can put the service out to bid. AA Jones asked for guidelines to put in the bid specs as to what is to be done, how often, etc. for the fire stations. FC Roberts will prepare the info and send to AA Jones; 2) purchase orders were presented for the Class A uniforms for the officers that were approved as a 50/50 expense with the Bartlett Firefighters Assoc. Hebert asked how the prices came in and Roberts stated they were a little less than budgeted. Selectmen will review it.

Chandler mentioned to FC Roberts that there will be a meeting on the damage from the last storm sometime during the first week of December and we will let him know the date and time when confirmed. Hebert asked what the schedule was for the emergency operations plan with Hart's Location. FC Roberts indicated he didn't think it was until next summer but would check on it.

Scott Grant, School Board member/liaison, told the Selectmen that the School Board was starting to work on the budget and asked if they had any input they would like him to pass along. Chandler indicated that although we don't have firm figures, we are probably looking at a \$500,000 increase due to the flood damages and anything they can do to refrain from increases would be appreciated by the taxpayers.

Police Chief Chris Keaton stopped into the meeting to update the Selectmen on the new officer hiring process. They interviewed three candidates last week and two have been chosen to go forward with the physical agility test followed by the psychological exam and full background check. He hopes to be able to bring them forward to meet the Selectmen shortly. PC Keaton also asked when the holiday pay checks are issued for the officers as they thought it was in November. Chandler stated not until December.

PC Keaton also stated that he has been working with Ray Gilmore, MIT Outing Club and the Governor's office regarding the trail relocation and trespass issue on Gilmore's property on Dundee Rd. and hopes to have a satisfactory resolution soon.

Chandler reviewed with the Board an email from Jennifer Robinson regarding flooding issues on the Rocky Branch River. Selectmen agreed to have Chandler draft a response.

The agreement for the 2018 Hazardous Waste Day with the Town of Conway was signed and will be returned to them.

Selectmen signed the deeds for the properties sold at public auction on October 14, 2017. Three bidders backed out and therefore, their \$1,000 deposits are non-refundable. The deeds will then be sent for recording.

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

Motion was made by Hebert, seconded by Patch to adjourn. Vote = Meeting adjourned at 5:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn P. Jones, Admin. Asst.
(for Secretary Brenda Medeiros who was delivering Thanksgiving food baskets)