

Town of Bartlett Office of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes: August 27, 2018

Attendance: Chairman Gene Chandler, David Patch, Vicki Garland

Visitors: Kevin McEnaney, Erik Corbett, Barry Trudeau

Reporters: None

Meeting opened at 03:40 PM.

Recreation Director, Annette Libby, and Fire Chief L. Patrick Roberts met with the Selectmen to question the amount of their raises. Roberts stated that we usually get raises effective on April 1st. Chairman Chandler stated you did get something in April. Selectman Garland explained that they received a 3% raise in addition to a bonus check. Selectman Garland stated that she devised the formula and that she tried to be fair to all full time employees. Everyone received the 3% plus a bonus check which was \$1000.00 plus \$16.00 a year for each year worked as was explained in the letter each employee received. Libby stated that to her a raise is included in each check not one check. Selectman Garland commented that the one check was the raise and that lump sum will be added to the wage figure for next years total. Libby replied that she didn't get the full amount that was the will of the people at town meeting. Selectman Garland said there would have been a lot of hard feelings with the other employees if only two people got raises and she tried to make it fair to everyone. Roberts commented that the other employees could have asked for more money so there shouldn't be any hard feelings. Libby stated that she is way under paid for what she does. Garland commented that she knows how hard she works and this is not a reflection on her work. Roberts stated that people don't see what he does and he is way under paid in the Mount Washington Valley. Other fire departments pay hourly and time and a half after forty hours. He is on call seven days a week and responds to places within ten minutes. He has worked on the fire department for 40 years and been an officer for 35 of those years. Selectman Garland commented that each department head could say the same thing about their work and she tried to be fair to all full time employees with the exception of the police department as they had already received what they had requested. Libby stated that she would like to see a raise in her pay next year to bring her up to other recreation directors. Libby suggested that maybe all employees should have their wages brought up. Chairman Chandler said we can but there will not be any more raises for this year. Libby suggested that all the employees have a group meeting to discuss wages next year. Selectman Garland would like to see a comparison of what others in the Mount Washington Valley receive. She would like to compare apples to apples and compare number of calls, etc. with other small towns. Roberts stated that he is upset. Libby remarked that she is disgruntled.

Kevin McEnaney questioned about the fact that people at town meeting had voted in raises. Chairman Chandler replied that money is discretionary funds and he can't remember how many times the Moderator explained that to the voters. McEnaney replied that he thinks people had thought that once voted in that is what would happen. Selectman Garland stated that the way it happened the supporters were more like a popularity contest. Chairman Chandler also pointed out that in addition to Roberts's salary the town pays \$17,000.00 for his retirement and another \$20,000.00 for insurance.

Patsy Rogerson, Val Rothen, Linda Bernard, Ajith Dissanayake, and Angela Huertas of the Saco River Ad Hoc Committee met with the Selectmen. Dissanayake inquired if we had any update from when FEMA last came up to look at the Saco River. Chairman Chandler replied that they are coming back again to look at the river. Selectman Patch commented that we hope to change their minds about what needs to be done. Bernard stated there is even more debris in the channels now. Dissanayake commented that it needs to be looked at and not just as a temporary solution. Rogerson inquired as to who guides what happens.

Chairman Chandler replied that he isn't sure but thinks we should hire an engineer to get something done. Rogerson would like to see them work on a plan and have the town present. Chairman Chandler informed them that he has written to FEMA, Chuck Henderson and others in reference to the report received from Dr. Richard Downer that contained many inaccurate parts. Rogerson stated that she hadn't seen the report. Chairman Chandler said he would make a copy. Dr. Richard Downer did not address the levys and this is very discouraging so he wrote a letter and sent it to Perry Plummer (Director-Homeland Security) to see if it is ok to send. Plummer stated that it was. Selectman Garland inquired if we could take some of the special article money to hire an engineer. Chairman Chandler replied that the way it is written it can only be used for a match. Dissanayake would like to see a formal technical report done. Chairman Chandler will check with the State for a match from FEMA and for approval to go ahead and do that report. Dissanayake commented we are under the assumption they will do something. Chairman Chandler replied yes but we may be crossing the line by sending the letter. Dissanayake maybe they will pay something for the engineer. Chairman Chandler replied that we are eligible but they may not pay. Dissanayake and the Saco River Ad Hoc Committee feel we should take the risk. Rogerson stated that FEMA has taken a second look at the situation so don't understand what is delaying them. Chairman Chandler replied that the only thing he knows for sure is that they have said no to repairs to private property. Dissanayake inquired if there was something he could do to help trigger to get something done. He will check into this. Bernard has received conflicting information as one says there is no money but Chuck Henderson, Special Assistant to Senator Shaheen, says there are pockets that have money. Bernard said this is a real issue and they need to step up to the plate before they become an island. They need to stop dragging their feet. Rogerson said they need to get the cobble out to help protect properties. We have been patient but it is time to do something. Dissanayake inquired if any other town is experiencing this. Selectman Patch replied yes there are six of them that all have the same problem. Chairman Chandler stated that he believes we are the first on the list. Dissanayake commented that we need to find out who the yes guy is and he would be willing to do this. Chairman Chandler stated we are not going to tell you no. Huertas said that in Conway they classified Passaconaway Road as a recreation road to get assistance so can we do that as their road is a bike path, has a public beach as well as the Langdon hiking trail. Chairman Chandler said that he doesn't think so. Bernard stated that you have to have two forms of egress and they don't. Bernard commented that a friend of hers mentioned she didn't want her taxes to go up because of work done on Cobb Farm Road so Bernard would like to know if the taxes for Cobb Farm Road could be pro-rated. Chairman Chandler replied that wasn't legal. Rogerson commented that you can't spot assess as you have to do it on betterment work. Bernard stated there are 8-9 cut stone that washed down from 2nd iron that could be used but she hasn't figured out how to get them on to her property. The Selectmen will keep them posted when they learn anything new.

Silas Miller and Ian Ferguson (Hartmann RR Museum – 1RT16A-195-L02) had filed a change of use application which was returned to them as it had missing information. They are trying to expand the seating from 30 to 70. They have contacted a surveyor who suggested they speak to the Selectmen about getting a second septic system designed but not installed unless the existing system fails. Chairman Chandler inquired if they can just add on to the existing system. Ferguson stated that would be just as expensive as it is under the parking lot. Shawn Bergeron had told them it is the discretion of the town if they would allow them to have a system designed but not installed. Chairman Chandler suggested that they have the plans drawn up and approved by the State first. Lynn Jones, AA, cautioned them that she believes that the reason the building is built how it is as there is a high water table on the lot.

Kevin McEnaney requested a copy of the letter that the Selectmen were sending to the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust concerning the use of land owned by the Town for glade skiing. He was informed that he had to wait till the USVLT had a chance to receive it. He stated that the primary concern was the liability of skiers on the property and he doesn't see how that is any different from someone hiking on the property. Chairman Chandler commented that the cutting of trees is an issue. Chairman Chandler also stated that we are checking with our attorney concerning this matter.

The Selectmen signed checks, building permits and correspondence during the course of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 05:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Medeiros, Sec.