

TOWN OF BARTLETT – OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN
MINUTES: SELECTMEN'S MEETING – WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024

ATTENDANCE: Selectmen Gene G. Chandler (Chair), Vicki L. Garland, Ronald T. Munro
REPORTERS: None

Meeting opened at 4:00PM. Chair Chandler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Fire Chief Jeff Currier and Deputy Chief Red Langdon attended the meeting for an update on fire department matters. Chairman Chandler stated that the Board first had an issue to discuss regarding their request via email on Friday, November 1 at 9:37AM to put a notice on the sign out in front of the Glen Fire Station directing voters to the school to vote on Election Day November 5 since it was a different venue than for the Primary (which was at the fire station). Chief Currier indicated that he was too busy to do it and it was not done. The Board expressed their dissatisfaction with his answer. Selectman Munro stated that if this happens again, to please call him and he will make arrangements for the sign to be up.

The discussion continued with Chief Currier reporting that the weather on October 12 created some real challenges and that Deputy Chief Langdon and the members of the department handled them very well since Chief Currier was on vacation. Chair Chandler stated that we had heard this and sent a letter dated October 23, 2024 to the firefighters commending the department.

Chief Currier then reported that the commercial property inspection program is continuing with Firefighters Dan Robinson and Ryan MacDougald doing about one per week. Selectman Munro asked what things they are looking for and Chief Currier responded it was to look for hazards, get a feel for the layout of the business, make safety recommendations, and the businesses have been very receptive so far.

Chief Currier stated that since we did not receive the grant for the radios that was voted on at Town Meeting (2024 WA#10), we are now into the provisions of WA#11 in the amount of \$37,000, however, we have been told that the radios that we were planning on will be discontinued in 2025. Therefore, they are researching a replacement radio that will be supported for the foreseeable future and will let us know. Chief Currier asked what the status was of the radio committee, stating that Chair Chandler was supposed to be getting info and Chief hasn't heard anything. Selectman Munro asked how the system was working now since the antenna was replaced and the snake/mouse issue has been resolved in the building. Chief Currier indicated it seems to be working. Chair Chandler apologized and said he will get on it.

Chief Currier asked about the garage door replacement program that was in effect prior to his arrival and whether we will be getting back on the schedule of replacing two doors per year. Selectman Munro stated that he should include that in his proposed 2025 budget.

Chief Currier asked about the replacement NH flag that he had requested. AA Lynn Jones stated that we did not know the size of the flag needed and whether we could solve the problem of it hitting the roof and damaging it by getting a smaller flag. Chief indicated it should be a 3'x5' flag.

Chair Chandler asked if LA Drew had started work on the overhangs yet. Chief stated no. All agreed that since winter is approaching, the priority overhang to get done is the one on the apparatus door side if we can only get one done this year. Chair Chandler said he would check into it with the Drews.

Chief Currier stated that the heating system is complete and they just have some cleaning up to do.

Planning Board Chair Scott Grant stated he had some questions about the cell tower approval procedure. AA Jones explained that applications are first reviewed by the Planning Board to determine whether it is a minor modification that does not require a public hearing with abutter notification or whether it is a major modification that does require a public hearing with abutter notification. Once the Planning Board makes their decision, they either send notification to the Selectmen's office that it is minor and no hearing is required or if major, after the hearing is held and the decision is made, send notification to the Selectmen's office of what was approved. Once the Selectmen receive it, they can then approve the permit and send it to the applicant. (This item was not on the agenda)

Motion was made by Selectman Garland, seconded by Selectman Munro to approve the minutes of October 31, 2024. Vote: GGC – Yes/VLG – Yes/ RTM – Yes. Minutes were approved.

Planning Board Chair Scott Grant then asked if he could ask some questions since there was some time before the next item on the agenda regarding minimum lot size and grandfathering due to an issue before the Planning Board with the David and Jennifer Bartlett properties at 23 Central St. (5VILLG-CEN-70) and 8 Grove St. (5VILLG-GRO-20). Chair Chandler allowed his questions. This issue stems from the request by the Bartletts to change the boundaries of their properties that are currently pre-existing non-conforming properties (aka grandfathered) as far as minimum lot size is concerned. Selectman Garland explained that the problem is that they are grandfathered for what is there, but if they want to change it, they must comply with the current regulations which they apparently cannot meet. The people next on the agenda arrived and the discussion was continued later.

Bartlett Recreation Department Director Annette Libby, Bartlett Athletic and Recreation Association (BARA) Board Members, Tammy Bronejko (Chair), Jay Calabro, and Bryan Morin (arrived midway) attended to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding that is being proposed between the town and BARA. Director Libby asked whether the town had their attorney review the MOU. Selectmen Munro asked about the answers to the questions the Selectmen had sent back to her after they reviewed the MOU that she presented. Director Libby stated she had. AA Jones indicated that she did not think we had gotten them. BARA Chair Bronejko stated that they thought that we should send the MOU to our attorney and let theirs and our attorney work things out. Chair Chandler and Selectman Garland stated that we won't send something to our attorney to review that we don't agree with and have questions about as that is a waste of time and money; we will send him our final MOU to review. Chair Chandler went back to the issue of the answers to our questions. Director Libby then stated that she had the answers but their attorney said not to give them to us. Chair Chandler said we won't send anything to our attorney until we have the answers to our questions. Selectman Munro felt that we need to meet at a work session to review the MOU line by line and work this out. Selectman Garland agreed that we should make this a separate meeting which is open to the public to attend but would not take up time at a Selectmen's meeting and offered various dates and times. It was agreed to have a work session on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 starting at 3PM at the Town Hall, which is prior to the scheduled Selectmen's meeting. Selectmen will not put anyone on the agenda until at least 4:30pm to allow for 1.5hrs to work on the MOU. All agreed.

Director Libby then mentioned that the Christmas Tree Lighting is scheduled for December 1, 2024 and that Santa Claus has requested that a chair be provided. Director Libby has concerns that this will become a very long event with the number of children that may want to have a photo taken with Santa. It was agreed that an Elf would be needed to assist with this and that it was incumbent on the Elf to keep things moving along.

David Shedd, Planning Board Member, as well as Planning Board Chair Scott Grant asked to discuss the David and Jennifer Bartlett (who were present) situation as mentioned previously in the meeting. Shedd stated that he wanted to make it clear that he was not representing anybody but was simply trying to sort out a complicated situation with some guidance or support from the Selectmen. Shedd stated that since the Planning Board cannot create a non-conforming lot, they should deny the Bartlett's application which would then allow them to appeal to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA). Shedd wanted to know if the Selectmen would object to this. Chair Chandler stated that we can't necessarily state whether we support or object but we agree this is the correct avenue to pursue and put it in the hands of the ZBA. Selectmen Munro and Garland agreed. Selectman Garland expressed concern that previously the Bartlett's indicated they were looking to get a second dwelling unit on one of the lots and that was a problem. David Bartlett stated that they were not looking to do that anymore.

Selectmen discussed the recent election. It was a very long day for all election workers and the Selectmen were very pleased with how it went. All of our staff and volunteers are to be highly commended. There are still issues with having to host the Hale's Location voters as directed by the Secretary of State. Selectmen agreed that a letter will be sent to the Secretary of State to see how we can change this arrangement.

There being no further business, motion was made by Selectman Garland, seconded by Selectman Munro to adjourn the meeting. Vote: GGC-Yes/VLG-Yes/ RTM-Yes. Meeting adjourned at 5:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn P. Jones
Administrative Assistant to the Selectmen

Permits Approved:

Date	Owner Name	Map/Parcel	Type of permit
11/06/2024	Schurman Stefan/Melanie	5COBRD-55RW22 246 Cobb Farm Rd.	Construction of Shed
11/06/2024	Schurman Stefan/Melanie	5COBRD-55RW22 246 Cobb Farm Rd.	Addition of hot tub
11/06/2024	River Run Co LLC	3RT302-143R7 Bldg 7 AMV	Replace fire damaged roof