

## TOWN OF BARTLETT – SELECTMEN’S OFFICE

Meeting Minutes: Monday, April 6, 2015 – Selectmen’s Meeting

Attendance: Selectmen Gene G. Chandler, David A. Patch, Jonathan Hebert

Reporters: None

Meeting opened at 3:45PM.

Fire Chief L. Patrick Roberts arrived at the meeting and in the spirit of good humor, gave all three Selectmen hugs. Hebert stated he would go one step further and give Roberts a kiss too. This was a reaction to an April Fool’s story in the *Conway Daily Sun* indicating that the Selectmen would become more friendly at their meetings and would give people hugs when they attended Selectmen’s meetings.

Fire Chief L. Patrick Roberts attended the meeting to review the structure fire that occurred on Friday April 3, 2015 at 19 Woodland Pines Rd. Roberts presented a letter to the Selectmen as follows:

“Gentlemen,

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Board of a fire and the actions of the on scene Fire Fighter’s that saved the life of another at a fire scene at 19 Woodland Pines that occurred Friday afternoon April 3, 2015.

Our Department was toned at 1320 for a report of smoke coming from a building. I arrived first on scene to find smoke coming from the ridge of the roof and the eaves of the south side of the building. When I got around the building to the entry side, I found smoke coming from the widows and eaves of the building with Unit 19 being the unit which was on fire. Bartlett Police Officer Cheryl Harris arrived right behind me and she and I knocked on the doors of Units 17-20 to alert any potential occupants of the fire. No one came to the door and the building appeared unoccupied at that time.

Bartlett Fire Captain Travis Chick arrived in his POV and started gearing up with his PPE. Jackson’s Engine #4 arrived and together with Jackson Fire Captain Anthony Giovanni, Captain Chick put on SCBA, deployed a hose line to the front door, and was the first assigned Interior Crew into the building with a charged hand line to start working to extinguish the fire.

This Interior Crew found moderate fire, extremely heavy smoke, and high heat conditions in the basement area of the split level condominium unit. They knocked down the fire and did an initial search for any potential victims finding no one initially in this area of the building. They then started upstairs to start checking for any extension of the fire into the area above the fire floor where they encountered heavy smoke and moderate heat conditions.

I received a report at the Command Post that there may be a potential victim, the owner Clare Otto, still inside and reported this to the Interior Crew who then went back down to the basement area and conducted a secondary search of the basement and found a male victim, James Otto, laying on the floor at the foot of the bed, initially unresponsive but breathing and completely unaware that the building was on fire when he did come to. The Interior Crew quickly realized that the victim was unable to walk and quickly carried him out through the fire area which was still smoke filled and very hot, to the outside placing him in the care of the Bartlett/Jackson Ambulance EMS personnel that were ordered to the front door by Command. The victim was conscious, breathing, and talking when placed in Unit 70 and transported to Memorial Hospital for treatment of smoke inhalation.

Although the successful mitigation of the incident was a team effort with multiple first responders, it was through the bravery of Captain Travis Chick and Captain Anthony Giovanni who encountered very difficult fire conditions not conducive to human life and having the presence of mind to return and conduct a secondary search of the fire floor, the victim’s life was saved. To the best of my knowledge the victim is still alive but I have yet to acquire a current updated status of his condition.

I am extremely proud of Travis and Anthony and consider it an honor to be part of this team and lead these men and women during some of the most terrible things that happen here in our home Town.

In my 36 years of service with the Bartlett Fire Department as a Fire Fighter, a Fire Officer, and finally the Chief, to the best of my knowledge this is the first rescue of a victim from a fire in Bartlett. We as a Department have unfortunately done many recoveries but this is our first rescue.

The actions of all on scene first responders needs to be brought forward as well as the team effort of this incident leading to the bulk of the fire damage being isolated to the basement area of Unit 19 which could have been much worse with significant property loss to the owners of the other three units. The other units did suffer some smoke and water damage but the cleanup and any rebuilding should be reasonably inexpensive when compared to a complete re-build.

Not to diminish their actions or courage, I believe the greatest thing to be taken away from this incident is it demonstrates how well all of the Fire Fighters of our Mutual Aid Association work together and are able to meld into a team in an instant regardless of which Department they represent to safely address the issues at hand during emergency situations.

With all of this being said I would very much like to honor both Travis and Anthony to the highest level possible up to and including the Medal of Valor for their actions as this is our first rescue, I am not familiar with the process and hope the Board will support this and possibly provide some guidance.

I want to thank the Board for their time.

Fire Chief L.Patrick Roberts”

Hebert stated that this letter was great and what they did certainly encourages recruitment when we have such positive outcomes. FC Roberts commented that it isn’t always easy to run towards the fire rather than away and he is proud of his department for their dedication. Selectmen agreed that recognition was appropriate and Chandler stated he would check in Concord when he is there tomorrow on how to proceed.

Selectmen reviewed and approved the bid specs for purchase of a new SUV Police Cruiser that was recently approved at Town Meeting. Bids will be sent out to dealers and no general advertising is needed.

Annette Libby, Bartlett Recreation Director, attended the meeting at the Selectmen’s request. Motion was made by Hebert, seconded by Patch to enter NonPublic Session (NPS) under NH RSA 91-A:3-II-(a). Roll call vote – unanimous to enter NPS at 4:00PM. Discussion occurred with Libby. Motion was made by Hebert, seconded by Patch to end NPS and to seal the minutes. Roll call vote – unanimous to end NPS and seal minutes at 4:20PM. Hebert will be doing further investigation before a decision is made.

Libby reported that the Rec Dept’s “Taste of the Valley” event went off very well on March 29, 2015. They raised approximately \$15,000 with about \$1,000 in expenses. Hebert stated the event was great and congratulated Libby on a job well done.

Interim Chief Janet Hadley Champlin attended the meeting to give Selectmen an update on police matters. She stated that she just had the radar guns (4) calibrated as they were due to be done and submitted the bill for \$260.00. She stated that officers have been very busy making traffic stops and they have been concentrating on the area of the school during school hours to slow the traffic down.

IC Champlin commended Officer Cheryl Harris for her actions at the Woodland Pines fire last Friday as she was very active in insuring that all residents were out of the building. Also Officer Ian MacMillan had a DWI arrest this weekend and Officer Jamie Lynn Shackford is currently working with Family Support Liaison Vicki Garland at the school on a matter. IC Champlin stated she is happy with the way the officers are handling the issues being presented to them. IC Champlin stated she will attend a meeting tomorrow for area detectives that get together and discuss crimes in the area that may be similar in each town such as break-ins, thefts, etc. She feels she is developing a good working relationship with other departments. She also stated that they are trying to arrange training for our dept. and Jackson’s dept. (in order to share costs) on taking tire and footprint impressions. She feels this is particularly valuable for around here given that most of the area has snow or dirt where impressions are often made during crimes.

Motion was made by Patch, seconded by Hebert to enter NPS under NH RSA 91-A:3 II (a) to discuss a personnel matter with IC Champlin. Roll call vote – unanimous to enter NPS at 4:50PM. Discussion occurred with IC Champlin. Motion was made by Hebert, seconded by Patch to end NPS and to seal the minutes. Roll call vote – unanimous to end NPS at 5:05PM. Selectmen will await further information from the State.

Chandler stated that they have for signing the annual “Summary of Wages” schedule for all employees that documents the wage changes but that it does not include any change to firefighters’ pay yet. Chandler explained to Hebert what was done last year with the officers and that the firefighters’ don’t get paid until the fall, and the Selectmen will discuss before then what their rate of pay will be. Document was signed by the Selectmen.

The Selectmen received an email from the Jackson Selectmen that provided a list of towns that have used Comstar for billing and their comments about their experience with them and wanted to know how we wanted to proceed. Hebert stated that he would like to keep the billing local but we just don’t have the staff to do it diligently. Chandler stated that he would like to have another meeting but wants to have a plan or proposal from the Ambulance Service directors on how they want to proceed with a specific plan (preferably in writing) because we need to get this billing under control. Hebert and Patch agreed. Selectmen directed AA Lynn Jones to notify Jackson of this request.

Hebert asked what we were going to do about website maintenance since Craig Harrison has indicated he would like to get out of doing it since he hasn’t lived in town for a long time and feels he can no longer volunteer his time and make timely changes for us due to his travel schedule. Hebert stated he had someone contact him and offer to do it for free also or train us to do certain aspects to allow faster posting of info. Patch and Chandler agreed to have Hebert check with the person again and have them meet with us.

Selectmen reviewed correspondence, signed checks, and approved building permits throughout the meeting as time allowed. Motion was made by Hebert, seconded by Patch to adjourn. Vote = adjourned at 5:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn P. Jones, Admin. Asst. to the Selectmen for  
Secretary Brenda Medeiros (on vacation)