

Town of Bartlett Office of Selectmen

Meeting minutes: February 6, 2009

Attendance: Chairman Gene Chandler, Douglas Garland, Jon Tanguay

Reporters: None

Meeting opened at 08:30 AM.

David Shedd advised the Selectmen that he had stopped the roof from leaking in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office. He has removed the snow from above the ice and put salt behind the ice hoping that when it warms up it will come off. Shedd stated that he would be glad to take care of and watch the roof but he hadn't wanted to take a chance on chopping the ice and having it remove shingles or for the icicles to go through the windows. Shedd inquired if the Selectmen wanted him to shovel the roof over the meeting room. The Selectmen and Shedd took a look at the roof and decided he should go ahead and shovel it back 3-4 feet. Shedd inquired as to when any insulation had been put in for the roofs. Selectman Garland replied that he didn't know. Shedd offered that in the spring he will check out the insulation and the vents. Shedd also inquired if a replacement for him doing test pits was in the horizon as he was only doing it on a temporary basis while Roger Labbe was unable to do it. Chairman Chandler replied that it was not in the horizon.

Fire Chief L. Patrick Roberts, Joe Orsino, James Langdon, and Peter Villaume of the fire department met with the Selectmen about the fire department budget and special articles to be considered on this year's budget. Roberts stated that when the fire department members met with the Selectmen in December that they hadn't received much feed back when they had discussed apparatus replacement plans, so they didn't know how to proceed. Chairman Chandler stated that in 35 years never has a department petitioned for its own articles. Chairman Chandler remarked that they had the articles that were being put on the warrant before the deadline date, but they went ahead and put three of the same ones on themselves which is confusing. Villaume replied that warrant articles can be shot down and they were not given any time to decide if they needed the warrant article. Vehicles have been pushed off and off, shot down and have had very little positive or negative feedback from the Selectmen. Roberts remarked that they were willing to work with the board and have an agreeable budget from both sides for going to the meeting. Chairman Chandler stated you can call me old fashioned but why would we treat one department different than the

others. We try to provide good service and keep the taxes down. This is a terrible year as people can't pay taxes; everything is out of control, and assessed values are down. The school starts their budget with what they want to do, we start with what we actually spent and we can't get those figures until January and that is when we take under consideration whether we need to buy something. Roberts stated that if they had been told that they would have understood. Orsino mentioned that a truck plan was presented and there was no response as the open communication died. Chairman Chandler replied that it is sometimes easier than saying no. Roberts stated they would like a no with an explanation. Chairman Chandler replied that it gets frustrating as in the past we don't buy at the rate the fire department would like, but he would like to think that we have done more than adequate for safety items. Chairman Chandler mentioned that when we buy new fire trucks why we don't have a viable plan with Jackson as it makes no sense for two small towns to try to do it on their own when with a little coordination they could buy new trucks together. Villaume stated that it would affect the ISO ratings. Chairman Chandler replied that that is false as ISO is figured on the water supply not the number of trucks you have and only parts of town has the water supply. Villaume inquired how if it was joint would they figure costs out, would it be based on runs or what. Jackson has plans to follow but we get it willy nilly. Villaume commented on interest. Chairman Chandler remarked that he had false information about interest costs on the current fire truck and that putting \$7,000.00 in the budget would be less than putting \$125,000.00 in capital reserve. Villaume replied that \$125,000.00 would only mean an additional 9 cents a thousand. Chairman Chandler inquired what about the other 9 cents a thousands as if you have 10 of those that quickly adds up to 90 cents a thousand. Selectman Garland mentioned that our revenues are going down each year which affects the tax rate. Roberts stated that they are all Bartlett taxpayers so the rate affects them as well. Selectmen Tanguay stated that he has been trying to communicate with the fire department and feels that he is caught in the middle and he doesn't know where this is going today. Once the petition is submitted it can't be removed. Roberts replied that it is basic 3rd grade math as they need to trade equipment every three years as by doing it every five years put us behind. Roberts would like money each year so that if demo equipment becomes available they would have the money to buy it right then and there. Roberts stated that in 2010 the EAP will change on apparatus. Chairman Chandler stated that the town valuation is going down which will

be a significant increase in the tax rate and now is not the time to do a capital reserve fund. Chairman Chandler explained that part of the problem is that they try to keep the fire, police, and highway budget reasonable because of the costs of the school. Villaume stated that the Selectmen can request changes at the school budget but they never go. Chairman Chandler replied that the Selectmen have tried and have written to the school board.

Selectmen Garland stated that he has been at every school meeting.

Selectman Tanguay is unclear as to why the town of Bartlett is responsible for the replacement/upgrade of the dispatch radio system at Carroll County Sheriffs Office. Roberts believes that the town of Bartlett and Jackson own this equipment. Roberts stated that Sgt. Meyers of the CCSO is having a meeting with OME about this and he would like to go to this meeting to find out more information. Chairman Chandler inquired if the \$3800.00 was just Bartlett's share and is this used just for Bartlett/Jackson. Selectman Tanguay stated that the Mount Washington Valley Mutual Aid also includes Conway even though they have their own radio system and he wondered if it is just the two towns or the mutual aid's responsibility. Roberts stated that it was originally Bartlett/Jackson. Chairman Chandler stated that we have never paid before. Roberts replied that it has never broke before. They are using a loaner piece of equipment and we need to buy this to replace the loaner.

Selectman Tanguay inquired if this had anything to do with the issues on Tyrol. Roberts stated no. Chairman Chandler mentioned that the Selectmen had put in \$5000.00 but the fire department had put in \$3500.00. Roberts will research this and get the accurate figures. Roberts inquired if the money the Selectmen had put in for the thermal imager if that was for what we had already spent. Chairman Chandler replied yes. Roberts inquired as to what was cut from maintenance. Selectman Tanguay replied nothing specific.

Chairman Chandler explained that some quotes may be over or under and in the past he has seen bills less than the cost estimated. Roberts inquired that if all the articles pass on the floor at town meeting what the board's feelings would be. Chairman Chandler replied that there is nothing we can do about it. Selectman Garland stated that they will be speaking against several items as it is no big secret that people are losing jobs and can't pay bills. Chairman Chandler stated that he feels guilty that the budget is up 2% from last year. Roberts would like to have more meetings. Chairman Chandler stated that he is receptive to that, however, before we buy another truck he would like someone to look at the overall department and give their opinion as to what is the proper vehicle that is needed. Chairman Chandler still believes we

need to work with Jackson. Roberts replied that we do work with them as there is a procedure that is followed such as a structure fire, both towns are toned out and North Conway is put on standby. Selectman Garland inquired if the new fire engine at the Bartlett Village fire station which is not 100 yards from the scene of the Bear Notch Deli fire ever made it to the scene. Roberts replied no it didn't. Selectman Garland stated that people were wondering why it never got to the fire and why they invested in remodeling the Bartlett Village fire station if neither are used. Langdon stated that it was a timing issue as nobody works during the day in Bartlett Village any more and they all go by the Glen Station to get to Bartlett. Chairman Chandler inquired if the fire had been at night would we have taken the truck. The firemen stated yes. Orsino stated that they have a well trained department. Selectman Garland inquired how many does it take to drive a fire truck to the scene especially when someone could have run up to the station to pick it up. Why wasn't someone assigned to this truck. Orsino replied that not every fire is the same. Langdon explained that you can't dedicate one person as how would you know that person could make it there as they may be working out of town. Langdon also stated that Officers go directly to the scene.

Chairman Chandler inquired about the telephone system at the Glen Fire Station and if they still wanted it as they didn't petition for that. Roberts replied yes.

Bea Davis, liaison of the Bartlett Jackson Ambulance department, directors Sue Gaudette and Rick Murnik met with the Selectmen as they are concerned that they won't be able to come up with \$28,000.00 for their payment for the new ambulance. Selectman Garland wanted to clarify that if they couldn't cover all of this would they come close. Gaudette replied that they can't make \$100,000.00. Selectman Garland remarked not in one year. Gaudette stated that \$110,000.00 this year and \$28,000.00 they can't make. Murnik stated only if all revenues were received could they come close to the \$28,000.00. Chairman Chandler stated that Bartlett will raise their half of the money. Gaudette inquired if Chairman Chandler was still looking into a better rate for financing. Chairman Chandler replied yes. Davis stated that the Town of Jackson has \$50,000.00 in their capital reserve fund for the ambulance. She will take back to Jackson the numbers scenario, but doesn't think it will be a problem. Chairman Chandler stated that Bartlett will pay for their half of the ambulance as we could do it the other way but if the

ambulance can't take in enough money the town would have to appropriate money anyway. Gaudette stated that the total cost for the ambulance will be \$149,000.00 and they will get \$1,200.00 for trade in on the existing ambulance. Gaudette also mentioned that Mr. Kiesman of the North Conway Ambulance Service may be interested in buying the old ambulance. Gaudette mentioned that Selectman Tanguay had spoken to her about a possible problem with North Conway Fire Department not letting some of its members also be Bartlett Jackson Ambulance members because of a conflict of interest. Fire Chief Pat Preece of the North Conway Fire Department was spoken to and there is no problem at all. Chairman Chandler stated that we need to put the ambulance out to bid to at least three places. Gaudette replied that specs have already been sent out and Murnik gave the Selectmen a copy of the bid specs. Chairman Chandler inquired if what they want for an ambulance would limit them to just one company. Murnik replied no but that we do have specific needs for our area and we need it built to our specs. Gaudette stated that there are different deals that you have to watch for as they may want to use a 2005 frame and put a 2009 box on it which would make it cheaper as well as there are different warranties to be considered. Selectman Garland inquired if the vehicle would be four wheel drive. Gaudette replied no that they don't have a problem getting around. Chairman Chandler informed them that Bartlett had reduced the Bartlett budget for the ambulance service to \$12,000.00 and that he had advised Jackson. Gaudette did mention that people have been paying the new higher rates and that Medicaid has started paying. Murnik mentioned that if they are toned out and respond and it is a sign off they can now bill people. Gaudette also mentioned that if it is a sign off they have reduced the responders pay from \$30.00 to \$11.00 which is basically to cover their gas. Murnik informed the Selectmen that the shifts are filling up now by not doing it by computer. Gaudette stated that they had 58 runs in January. Murnik stated that they have been able to cover most of them and right now they are trying to get the turn around time at the hospital less.

Peter Gagne of Northern Extreme Snowmobiles is looking for support for the White Mountain Trail Club as they would like 1833 feet of trail opened on the railroad tracks to connect to Better Life Cabins. Chairman Chandler stated that the Selectmen have nothing to do with that. Gagne replied that the Bureau of Trails is in favor. This connector will help to provide services to snowmobilers as they would have access to the Better Life store to purchase

snacks, etc. Northern Extremes wouldn't be able to use the connector as it would be for personal use only. He is looking to get service to the area as with the Bear Notch Deli gone there is no service available. They are only looking to go 1833 feet and thousands would be able to enjoy it. Selectman Garland questioned thousands. Gagne stated he can provide documentation to that. Gagne would like to at least try this for a trial period. Selectmen Garland stepped down as Selectmen and spoke as owner of Bear Notch Ski Touring.

Garland stated that this will create law enforcement problems, that his cross country skiers complain of the lingering smell of the machines and it ruins the ambience for people. Gagne stated there have only been two citations issued since 1998. Garland remarked that just shows how poor enforcement is as he himself has called a dozen times, but by the time law enforcement arrives they have gone. Garland stated that he has a five year lease with the government. Gagne stated that he would work with him. Garland remarked that the owners of Better Life Cabins bought the property without access. Garland also stated that it would be devastating to his business. Gagne replied that is his opinion. Chairman Chandler reminded Gagne that he was forgetting that the Department of Transportation was not going to let them do it. Gagne replied that the head of Department of Transportation is coming up next week. Garland feels that it will be detrimental to his business and if necessary he can circulate a petition. Gagne remarked it is too bad they can't coexist. Chairman Chandler stated that he has never seen where snowmobiles and cross country skiing coexist. Garland remarked that it is like mixing oil and water. Gagne stated that up North they coexist. Chairman Chandler remarked that they don't go on the same trails. Garland commented that he is asking to put out of business an old business to establish a new one. Selectman Tanguay inquired if Gagne had a formal request. Gagne replied that he would like a 30 day trial period of the 1833 feet. Selectman Tanguay replied that no one had talked to him about this nor had anyone shown the Selectmen any plans or were notified of any meeting with a representative of Department of Transportation. Gagne replied that they did not need the Selectmen to do this. Chairman Chandler reminded Gagne that he needed building permits for the two structures he has put up. Gagne stated he didn't consider it a structure. Lynn Jones, AA, explained that if it is fixed or on the ground that it is considered a structure and requires a permit.

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Selectman Tanguay stated that he had stopped into the Citizens Bank and discussed the bank account that was opened in 2001 for the Bartlett Recreation Department. He stated that it has no recent history and we are being charged dormant fees on the \$60.00 in the account and he is suggesting we close it out and put the money into an active Bartlett Recreation account. The Selectmen agreed to send a letter to the bank to close the account and to request the dormant account fees returned.

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

The Selectmen had a budget work session after the regular meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Medeiros, Sec.