

Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire  
**Board of Selectmen**  
Meeting – November 6, 2020  
remotely using Zoom Meeting

*Note: Draft Minutes are subject to review, correction and approval by the Board. Review and approval of Minutes generally takes place at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.*

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Selectman Kenneth P. Colby, Jr. at 12:30 pm remotely using Zoom Meeting. Present at Whitcomb Hall were W. William Hutwelker, Sylvester Karasinski and Kenneth P. Colby, Jr. Also present via Zoom was Town Administrator Michael Branley and Recording Secretary Beverly Bernard.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Steve Bittel

**PUBLIC INPUT**

The public was able to participate remotely over Zoom by going to [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us), using Zoom App on a cell phone, or on a landline calling 1 929 205 6099 and entering Meeting ID 235 370 4380. If the public is unable to access the meeting, they are asked to call 352-7411 ext. 107.

**APPROVAL OF 2020 PROPERTY TAX RATE**

The Board considered the 2020 property tax rate. Branley noted a 6.38% increase for Town business. He noted that Cheshire County and the Monadnock Regional School District rates are lower than for 2019 and therefore there is an overall decrease to -0.34%. Branley also spoke of making the 2020 tax rate the same as 2019 by lowering the fund balance offsetting taxes, which would give a Town portion increase of 7.76% and leave a bit more in the fund balance. Branley said he encourages a strong fund balance. Colby asked for comments. Hutwelker said he was in favor of keeping the increase to the Town portion at 6.38% rather than at 7.76% in order to be prudent because of uncertainty about the impact of the Covid-19 virus and perhaps a new administration at the federal level. Karasinski agreed with Hutwelker. Bittel had no comment.

**Motion** was made by Hutwelker to direct the Town Administrator to set the 2020 overall tax rate at \$25.68. There was a second to the motion by Karasinski and no further discussion. All were in favor by roll. **Motion passed.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by Hutwelker. The motion was seconded by Karasinski without further discussion. All were in favor. **Motion passed.** Adjournment occurred at 12:37 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Bernard, Recording Secretary  
Approved on November 18, 2020