Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting – January 22, 2025
Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Chair Sylvester Karasinski at 5:31 p.m. at Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH. Present were Selectmen W. William Hutwelker III, Sylvester Karasinski and James Tempesta. Also present was Town Administrator Michael Branley and Recording Secretary Meagen Kerris.

OTHERS PRESENT
Bob DeRocher, Mark LaBelle, Mark Scalera, and Garrett Rainie with FACT TV

MINUTES
- The regular meeting Minutes of January 15, 2025 were considered. There was a motion by Tempesta to approve the regular meeting Minutes of January 15, 2025. There was a second by Hutwelker and no further discussion. All were in favor. **Motion passed.**

CONSENT AGENDA
Motion was made by Tempesta to approve the Consent Agenda. There was a second by Hutwelker. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***
- Payroll Manifest
- Payables Manifest
- Abatements #2025-02, #2025-03, #2024-04
- Intent to Cut Map 232 Lot 39
- Personnel Action Reports

PUBLIC INPUT
There was no public input at this time.

NEW BUSINESS
2025 Town Warrant Approval - Branley discussed his review of the budget after the Public Hearing on the Budget. He looked at vacant positions that have a high likelihood of remaining open through part of the year. He suggested:
- Previously we have budgeted health insurance for vacant positions at 2 person plans, he suggested budgeting them as opt-outs.
- Department of Public Works payroll can be adjusted as a new full-time employee will not likely be filled until later in the year.
- Reducing the full-time wages in the fire department for the 2nd position that is currently vacant.
- Reducing the full time wage line item in the Police Department based on vacant positions.

These changes will bring the budget increase to 5% rather than 9%. The Board agreed to this budget by consensus with a bottom line of $8,370,000. Discussion of what Assessor Marazoff thought tax income may be for new commercial developments. Tempesta listed off the new businesses that may bring in some more revenue for the town in 2025; F.W. Webb, Monadnock Place, Flatley should be partial.

Branley asked the Board if they wanted to change their recommendations on any articles and said he needs their recommendation (or not) on Warrant Article 16 (to have a second poling location in West Swanzey at Whitcomb Hall) because it is an appropriation. Hutwelker votes no due to the financial and practical impact.

Karasinski votes no. Tempesta did not vote. The Board of Selectmen does not recommend Warrant Article 16. The Board approved the 2025 warrant by consensus.

2025 MS 636 Town Budget
Tempesta asked about the default budget and Hutwelker asked if there was much of a difference. Branley said at this time, there is a difference of $435,000 between the proposed budget and the default budget. The default budget is slightly lower than the recommended budget. The Board approved the MS 636 by consensus.

2025 Default Budget
The board agreed by consensus on the 2025 Default Budget.

February Meeting Schedule

- 2/4 Tuesday – Meeting at 6 p.m. prior to Deliberative Session at 7 p.m.
- 2/12 DOT presentation regarding Swanzey Factory Road / Rt. 101 intersection project
- 2/19
- 2/26

Tempesta asked Branley if the purpose of the DOT Presentation meeting for Swanzey Factory Road / Rt. 101 intersection project was to discuss how it will affect Swanzey traffic, directions, and property. Branley confirmed.

Budget Hearing follow-up (as needed)
There was nothing further to discuss.

ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tempesta. The motion was seconded by Hutwelker without further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.*** Adjournment occurred at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recording Secretary, Meagen Kerris

Approved on January 29, 2025