Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting – February 12, 2025
Whitcomb Hall
17 Main Street, Swanzey, NH

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Chair Sylvester Karasinski at 5:30 p.m. at Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH. Present were Selectmen Sylvester Karasinski, W. William Hutwelker III, and James Tempesta. Also present was Town Administrator Michael Branley.

OTHERS PRESENT DPW Director Joe DiRusso, Mike Gomarlo, Mike York, Robert DeRocher, Mark Labelle, Mark Scalera, Assistant Town Planner Stephon Mehu, David Smith from NHDOT and Ellen Moshier from CHA Solutions, and Garrett Ranie from FACT TV.

MINUTES
- The regular meeting Minutes of February 4, 2025 were considered. There was a **motion** by Tempesta to approve the regular meeting Minutes of February 4, 2025. The motion was seconded by Hutwelker and there was 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. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***
- Payroll Manifest
- Payables Manifest
- Employment Agreement with Joseph Gonsalves
- Personnel Action Report(s)

NOMINATIONS
Motion was made by Tempesta to appoint the following:
Cheri Domina to the Energy Commission for a term ending Town Meeting 2028;
Jane Johnson as an alternate to the Conservation Commission for a term ending Town Meeting 2026;
Wally Smith as an alternate to the Conservation Commission for a term ending Town Meeting 2026; and
Steve Russell to the Energy Commission for a term ending Town Meeting 2028.
There was a second by Hutwelker. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

APPOINTMENTS
David Smith from NH Department of Transportation & Ellen Moshier from CHA Solutions – Update Regarding Rt. 101 Swanzey Factory Road Project

Smith gave an overview of the project and work done to date. Moshier described the project location, which is Rt. 101 in the area of Branch Road and Optical Ave. Project need is to improve road and drainage conditions, replace red listed bridge, and improve intersection with Swanzey Factory Road. The area is constrained based on the location of private property and the Branch River. Several options were considered to realign Swanzey Factory Road and preferred option is relocating Swanzey Factory Road south behind the Fastner Mill property. There is a proposed roundabout at the Rt. 101 Swanzey Factory Road intersection. During the bridge reconstruction the goal is to maintain at least one lane alternating traffic with some detours down Swanzey Factory Road. Environmental, historic, and archaeological concerns were discussed. Project schedule calls for

public hearing in the summer of 2025 with final design in 2026 and construction starting in Spring of 2027 and lasting 2 or 3 years. Current estimated budget is $17 million.

Mark Scalera stated the Branch River has a diversion dam off it that sends water to Wilson Pond in Swanzey and asked that during construction they try not to impact that resource. He also said the roundabout at Swanzey Factory Road will increase the traffic on it and he asked how that change will be addressed. Smith talked about compliance with environmental rules and regulations during construction. Traffic flow on Swanzey Factory Road was discussed and Moshier said there is a truck restriction on Swanzey Factory Road in Swanzey.

Karasinski asked about utilities in that area and Moshier said the water line will be replaced but the sewer line under the river will not be impacted.

DeRocher asked if there will be impacts to the banking along Rt. 101 and Smith outlined the impacts.

DPW Director DiRusso
Branley stated as part of the historical review for the Christian Hill Road project an abutter suggested installing decorative street lights on the bridge similar to Main Street. The bridge reconstruction is funded by the State through federal funds however the street lights would be a Town expense. Traditional street light as opposed to the decorative lights was discussed. The Board asked for more information regarding the costs of the decorative lights before making a decision.

There was a discussion about street lights on Perry Lane, if they were Town owned after the Perry Lane Village District was disbanded and if the Town wanted to replace them and continue to pay for them – consensus to remove them unless there is a legal requirement to keep them.

There was a discussion about disposal of a surplus dump track that was posted on Municibid but did not receive any bids. Starting bid was $10,000. The Board agreed to repost it at $7,000 and will accept a trade of materials/equipment rental if that is the best value.

Swanzey Lake Dam – Branley said the Town's last dam in need of improvement is Swanzey Lake Dam. He suggested the Town putting out a request for qualifications to select a design professional to work on developing a solution. The Board agreed.

Discussion regarding salt usage in the area of Wilson Pond.

CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS
Town Administrator Job Description and Posting – Alex Torpey from Rethink Local was on Zoom to discuss the job description and posting. Torpey said he expects to get the job posted within the next week. Branley asked for any feedback on the job description by the end of the week.

CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS
Tempesta stated he spoke to the interested party about the proposed rental. The next step would be the State Health Inspector inspecting the Whitcomb Hall kitchen to see if it is and appropriate facility.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION(S)
Non-public session(s) per RSA 91-A:3II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board

Motion was made by Tempesta to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, seconded by Hutwelker. All in favor by Roll Call and the ***motion passed***. The Board entered nonpublic session at 7:05 p.m. Present was James Tempesta, W. William Hutwelker III, and Sylvester Karasinski. Also present was Town Administrator Michael Branley.

Motion was made by Tempesta to leave non-public session and return to public session. The motion was seconded by Hutwelker, with all in favor. ***Motion passed***. Non-public session ended at 7:25 p.m.

Motion was made by Tempesta to seal the minutes of the non-public session. The motion was seconded by Hutwelker. The Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to seal the minutes. ***Motion passed.***

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 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael T Branley, Town Administrator

Approved on February 19, 2025