Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting – April 9, 2025
Whitcomb Hall
17 Main Street, Swanzey, NH

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair W. William Hutwelker III, at 5:36p.m. at Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH. Present were Selectmen W. William Hutwelker III, James Tempesta, and Mark LaBelle. Also present was Recording Secretary Meagen Kerris.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Gomarlo, Michael York, Stacey Goodale, George Hoffman, Police Chief Joseph Gonsalves, Fire Chief Eric Mattson, Assistant Fire Chief Mick Sanchez

MINUTES

- The regular meeting Minutes of March 19, 2025 were considered. Discussion of amendments. There was a **motion** by LaBelle to approve the regular meeting Minutes as amended of March 19, 2025. The motion was seconded by Tempesta and there was no further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***
- The non-public meeting Minutes #1, #2, #3, #4 of March 19, 2025 were considered. There was a **motion** by LaBelle to approve the non-public meeting Minutes #1, #2, #3, #4 of March 19, 2025. The motion was seconded by Tempesta and there was no further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Labelle to approve the Consent Agenda. There was a second by Tempesta. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

- Payroll Manifest
- Payables Manifest
- Special Events Permit # 2025-07 – Motorcycle Swap Meet – 05/04/2025
- Raffle Permit #2025-09 – Cheshire County Forest Fire Warden's Association
- Gravel Tax Levy – Operation 24-441-01-E
- Intent to Excavate – M239/L69
- Notice of Lien
- NHSFRF monitoring letter agreeing to retain all program documents for seven years
- Letter to NHDES on outcome of Town Meeting vote on water system
- Authorization for Assistant Town Planner to sign certain grant related documents
- Personnel Action Report(s)

PUBLIC INPUT

George Hoffman questioned the street light at 319 Holbrook Ave. He was wondering why it is there and not at an intersection. The pole number is 144217. Discussion of streetlight review and inventory several years ago. Minutes will be reviewed for these results.

NEW BUSINESS

Hutwelker presented certificates of appreciation for the Fire Station Advisory Committee. Recognizing the volunteers and their hours and commitment to the task that was assigned to them. They were charged with bringing forward a more cost-effective fire station than what was presented in the previous years.

Those who were presented certificates were; Jay Ward, Mark LaBelle, Fire Chief Eric Mattson, Sherry Mattson, Scott Self, Michael York, Stacey Goodale, Bob DeRocher, Mark Scalera and Cathy Bergstrom. Certificates will be mailed to; Bob Mitchell, Bob Smith, Bryan Rudgers, H. Gregory Johnson, James Jarzabek, Jeff Hurt, Keith Bell, Ken Greatbatch, Mike Burke and Russell Tenney.

APPOINTMENTS

Southwest Regional Planning Commission presentation on Next Generation Transit System

Terry Johnson came in to discuss expanding public transportation needs in the area. He and his colleague, Jason Cooper have been working on this project for the last 4 years and they are going to surrounding towns and cities to start educating on what this could mean for access to needs for residents. The idea is that it would be a bussing system rub similar to the share ride app, Uber. Claudia Stuart, Rindge County Commissioner, expressed concerns of what strain this will place on taxpayers.

Discussion continued surrounding details. Hutwelker reminded attendees this was intended to be a brief informational visit and that should there be further discussion needed, the Southwest Regional Planning Commission can return with more in-depth information.

Chief Joseph Gonsalves, Police Department Updates

There are currently 4 applicants that Gonsalves is engaged with. One of the applicants is a certified officer and the other 3 are not. The certified officer will require a contract buyout. There is a current part-time officer on the department that will be coming on full-time at the end of April. The department will be transitioning out an old cruiser this summer but will keep it within the department to use if for court appointments and Concord trips.

Chief Eric Mattson, Fire Department Updates

Deputy Chief Norman Skantze has accepted a position with the Town of Wilton as their full-time Fire Chief. Sanchez and Mattson will work to pick up where Skantze left off regarding training and call attendance. Discussion of equipment current and what is planned to be added to the stations. Hutwelker discussed with Mattson where his involvement with the new station will be. Discussion of thank you sign and when to expect it in place where the new station will be built.

NEW BUSINESS

Authorization to purchase new Town Hall interior lobby doors

Brief discussion of the replacement of the interior lobby doors for more security and the final cost.

> **motion** by LaBelle to approve up to $9,600.00 for the replacement of the interior lobby doors. The motion was seconded by Tempesta and there was no further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

Authorize additional repairs to code enforcement vehicle

Brief discussion of the additional repairs to the vehicle the Police Department passed on for the Code Enforcement Officer used.

> **motion** by LaBelle to approve up to $1,300.00 for the additional repairs to the code enforcement vehicle. The motion was seconded by Tempesta and there was no further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

OLD BUSINESS

Review of action items and follow up information from previous meetings
Hutwelker briefly went through old action items from current and previous agendas to remove and update each item.

Additional discussion of Assistant Town Planner, Stephon Mehu requesting permission to close out 5 aged bonds, report on 5 current bonds, and request an extension for 1 bond. The list of the 11 total bonds is as follows;

Closeouts

- Land And Water Conservation Fund Grant 2019 [$93,913.82]
- DEMO22-101 60 Summer St [$128,925.36]
- DEMO22-l 12 Swanzey Gardens [$130,000]
- ARPA Stormwater Asset Management 2023 [$30,000]
- DEMO22-113 Homestead Mill [$334,960]

Reporting

- DEMO22-166 Plane View Senior Housing [$43,850]
- NBRC 2022 (California & N Winchester Streets) [$306,254] MAST 2023 [$75,000]
- MAST 2024 [$51,250]
- Recreational Trail Program 2025 [$80,000]

Extension

- DEMO22-166 Plane View Senior Housing [$43,850]

motion by LaBelle to approve Stephon Mehu to close out the above 5 listed bonds, report of 5 current bonds, and request an extension for 1 bond. The motion was seconded by Tempesta and there was no further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

CORRESPONDENCE
Conservation Commission note awarding contract to Moosehead Ecological LLC to complete Open Space Plan
Discussion of what this plan looks like. Conservation Commission shared with the Board of Selectmen as a courtesy however it is also helpful to know how taxpayer's money is spent. Hutwelker expressed appreciation for this informative update.

PUBLIC INPUT
None.

NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS
Non-public session(s) per RSA 91-A:3, II(a) ***the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee***

Motion was made by LaBelle to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(a) the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, seconded by Tempesta. All in favor by Roll Call and the ***motion passed*.** The Board entered nonpublic session at 6:57 p.m. Present was W. William Hutwelker III, James Tempesta and Mark LaBelle. Also present was Police Chief Joseph Gonsalves Recording Secretary Meagen Kerris.

Motion was made by LaBelle to come out of non-public session, seconded by Tempesta. All in favor by Roll Call and the ***motion passed***. Non-public session ended at 7:07 pm.

Motion was made by LaBelle to seal the minutes seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor and the ***motion passed***.

Motion was made by LaBelle to authorize Police Chief Joseph Gonsalves to buy out the contract of an incoming full-time officer per the incentive program, seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

Non-public session(s) per RSA 91-A:3 II(a) *the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee*

Motion was made by LaBelle to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(a) the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee, seconded by Tempesta. All in favor by Roll Call and the ***motion passed*.** The Board entered nonpublic session at 7:11 p.m. Present was W. William Hutwelker III, James Tempesta and Mark LaBelle. Also present was Police Chief Joseph Gonsalves and Recording Secretary Meagen Kerris.

Motion was made by LaBelle to come out of non-public session, seconded by Tempesta. All in favor by Roll Call and the ***motion passed***. Non-public session ended at 7:21 pm.

Motion was made by LaBelle to seal the minutes, seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor and the ***motion passed***.

Motion was made by LaBelle to authorize Police Chief Joseph Gonsalves to buy out the contract of an incoming full-time officer per the incentive program, seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by LaBelle. The motion was seconded by Tempesta, without further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.*** Adjournment occurred at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meagen Kerris
Recording Secretary

Approved on October 22, 2025