Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting – May 14, 2025
Whitcomb Hall
17 Main Street, Swanzey, NH

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair W. William Hutwelker III, at 5:35 p.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 Susan Ells.

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Audette
Michael York
Joe DiRusso
John O'Rourke and Stephan DiNatale from Good Energy

MINUTES

- The regular meeting Minutes of May 7, 2025 were considered. There was a **motion** by LaBelle to approve the regular meeting Minutes of May 7, 2025. The motion was seconded by Tempesta and there was no further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***
- Motion to approve the non-public session was made by LaBelle, 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 – added to agenda by motion by Labelle, seconded by Tempesta. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***
- License to Sell Pistol Permits – Sam's Department Store
- Original Warrant Yield Tax Levy Operation # 24-441-10-T
- Permanent Application for Property Tax credits/Exemptions – M256L6
- Notice of Intent to Cut – M 237 L04, M240 L48

PUBLIC INPUT

Chair Hutwelker asked if there was public input – there was none.

APPOINTMENTS

A. Energy Commission & Good Energy – Contract Approval for Community Power

Bob Audette said that we have a 30-month plan with Good Energy for Community Power that is expiring at the end of 2025. At the time it began it had a very competitive, locked in rate as well as other choices of plans with various levels of renewable energy. Residents were opted automatically into the lowest rate plan and were given the opportunity to opt out or choose one of the other plans. Eversource has since lowered their rates, so some people have opted out.

We are getting a new contract effective on the meter reading date in December 2025. Audette said that about 2000 people are still enrolled. He asked the representatives if there would be notification sent out to residents. Good Energy will be sending the marketing collateral in September/October explaining the 4 options. Everyone currently enrolled will remain in their current plan which they can opt out of or change to one of the other plans. Those not currently participating will be able to enroll into one of these plans:

Tier 1 Swanzey Basic (25% - renewable energy)
Tier 2 Swanzey Standard (35% renewable energy) (auto enroll)
Tier 3 Swanzey 50 (50% renewable energy)
Tier 4 Swanzey 100 (100% renewable energy)

MOTION was made by LaBelle to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract for electricity supply to renew the Swanzey Community Power program. Seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor and there was no further discussion. ***Motion Passed.***

B. Appointment of Robert Kenney to the Golden Rod Grange Hall Advisory Committee.

Hutwelker reported that we are postponing this appointment for now.

C. Appointment of Maureen Conboy to the Stratton Library Board of Trustees -Alternate Trustee

MOTION was made by LaBelle to appoint Maureen Conboy as an Alternate Member to the Stratton Library Board of Trustees. Seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor and there was no further discussion. ***Motion Passed.***

CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval and Authorization of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

MOTION by Labelle to accept the grant agreement for the State of NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources- Division of Parks & Recreation Bureau of Trails and to allow the Town Administrator to sign the agreement and Certificate of Authority. Seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor and there was no further discussion. ***Motion Passed.***

B. Announcement by Hutwelker of the Runway 5K and Open House at Airport- May 18th 9 a.m.

C. Donation from Swanzey Lake Association – Memorial bench

MOTION made by Labelle: Pursuant to RSA 31:95e to move to accept a donation (bench as described) from the Swanzey Lake Association. Seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor and there was no further discussion. ***Motion Passed.***

CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Update from Joe DiRusso regarding a sign that will be needed for the construction of California and Winchester Street.

B. Formation/establishment of a Public Water Study Committee - W. Swanzey Water Company

Motion made by Labelle to establish a Public Water Study Committee to research the purchasing and improvements to the W. Swanzey Water Company. Seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor and there was no further discussion. ***Motion Passed.***

C. Formation/establishment of a Governance Committee and TIF Advisory Committee (TIF already established- need members)

Motion made by LaBelle to improve transparency, efficiency, and communication within the Town of Swanzey's governance structure, that the Town establish an Advisory Governance Committee to study and formulate recommendations in areas including but not limited to:

- Board of Selectmen organization, process and rules
- Town budget process and presentation
- Overall Governance Structure
- Comprehensive planning process

Hutwelker added to the motion that there would be no discussion of zoning or land use. Labelle moved to accept the amended motion, Tempesta seconded. **Amended motion approved**.

D. Hutwelker explained that last week the audio was not working when members of the TIF committee were given certificates of appreciation for their tremendous work in 2024; Cathy Bergstrom, George Nikiforakis, Jon Hoden, Steve Bittel, Scott Self, Keith Thibault and James Tempesta.

He also said that it was announced last week that a donation was made for a guard shed at the Recycling Center.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE - none

CORRESPONDENCE - none

PUBLIC INPUT - none

NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS

Non-public session(s) per RSA 91-A:3, II(b) Hiring of a Public Employee(s)

Motion was made by LaBelle to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(b) Hiring of public employee(s), seconded by Tempesta. All in favor by Roll Call and the ***motion passed*.** The Board entered nonpublic session at 6 p.m. Present was W. William Hutwelker III, James Tempesta and Mark LaBelle. Also present was Recording Secretary Sue Ells and DPW Director, Joe DiRusso.

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 6:07 pm.

Motion was made by LaBelle to seal the minutes until December 31, 2025, seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor and the ***motion passed***.

Non-public session(s) per RSA 91-A:3 II b) Hiring of a Public Employee(s)

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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 6:22 pm.

Motion was made by LaBelle to seal the minutes until December 31, 2025, seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor and the ***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 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan P. Ells
Recording Secretary

Approved on June 4, 2025