Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting – May 21, 2025
Whitcomb Hall
17 Main Street, Swanzey, NH

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair W. William Hutwelker III, at 5:30 p.m. at Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH. Other members present were Selectmen James Tempesta and Mark LaBelle. Also present were Town Administrator Lori Rautiola and Recording Secretary Susan Ells.

OTHERS PRESENT

Joe DiRusso, Director DPW and Garrett Ranney with FACT TV.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the following regular meetings were considered:

i.) May 14
ii.) May 7
iii.) April 30
iv.) April 23
v.) April 9

These were tabled.

The Minutes of the following nonpublic sessions were considered:

i.) May 14
ii.) May 7
iii.) April 30
iv.) April 23
v.) April 9 #1
vi.) April 9 #2

There was a **motion** by LaBelle to approve the nonpublic session Minutes for April 9 #1 and 9 #2; The motion was seconded by Tempesta and there was no further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

The remaining nonpublic sessions were tabled.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- Payroll Manifest
- Payables Manifest
- Permanent Application for Property Tax credits/Exemptions – M243L55/0/MH0/38, M243/55/0/MH0/38
- Notice of Intent to Excavate – Map 24-4 Route 10 (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)
- Open Container Permit – Whitcomb Hall
- Intent to Cut - Map 261 Lot 31 Route 32

PUBLIC INPUT

None

APPOINTMENTS

Donovan Fenton, State Senator – Explained some activity happening in the State; they have been a lot of zoning bills that will remove some of the rights of the towns. DiRusso explained the concern about the Wastewater plant in West Swanzey – there is a limit to future growth. Also, he has concern about homes being allowed to be built on private roads and Class 6 roads which is in a bill which is likely to pass at the state level. The Town doesn't have the capacity to maintain those roads and to provide emergency services. Hutwelker expressed concerns the Town has about the erosion of local control and the unfunded mandates that will put the cost onto the taxpayers. Fenton encouraged the board and taxpayers to reach out to representatives and senators to express any concerns and to give their feedback. Rautiola asked about HB475. This substantial change in default budget law will hurt SB2 towns and requires more consideration of the consequences. She asked on behalf of the board that the bill be removed from the consent agenda and be tabled, rereferred or be voted inexpedient to legislate. Hutwelker asked about other bills being considered that will affect zoning; Fenton remarked that he has not seen so many zoning bills in the 10 years he's been involved in the State.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Custom Window Blinds Proposal for Whitcomb Hall**

DiRusso explained the concerns that have been received about the windows on the second floor which let in too much light at times. He received a quote for shades; if we purchase them the DPW will install them, saving the cost of installation.

Motion was made by LaBelle to accept the proposal from Custom Window Blinds in the amount of $2,500 for the custom cordless roller shades at Whitcomb Hall and to expend $2,500 from the Whitcomb Hall Expendable Trust Fund for this purpose. Tempesta seconded the motion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

- **Security Camera System Proposal for Town Hall**

DiRusso described the 32-channel monitoring unit security system and cameras which have been proposed for outside and inside the building. It would be expandable if other cameras were needed in the future at the Town Hall. The monitoring would be at the Town Hall.

Hutwelker stated that this will be tabled until later in the year to determine where funding will come from.

- **Purchase Approval – Computer for DPW – Sewer**

DiRusso explained that the Wastewater department needs a computer; a desktop computer is more affordable and adequate for the reporting they need to do. The cost of about $1700 would come from their budget.

Motion was made by LaBelle to accept the proposal from Twin Bridge Services LLC for the purchase and installation of a desktop computer for the DPW Wastewater Department in the amount of $1700. Tempesta seconded the motion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed***.

- **Temporary Access Permit – Eversource**

DiRusso explained that the right of way near the airport needs renewal for the Temporary Access Permit.

Motion was made by LaBelle to authorize the Temporary Access permit for Eversource in support of the Eversource T198 Line Structure Replacement Project and to authorize Joe DiRusso to sign the permit. Tempesta seconded the motion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.***

- **Discussion on Town Office Vehicle – 2017 Ford Explorer**

DiRusso explained that DPW can provide some service on the Town Vehicles which needs repair to save the cost of outsourcing. He will have this vehicle looked at to see what the expense would be to repair it.

CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

- **SOP for Access to Town Hall**

Rautiola reviewed the draft of the SOP for Access to Town Hall. The board made suggestions for edits. She will revise the draft with the edits and provide it for review and approval at the June 4th meeting.

UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS AND MEETINGS

There will be NO Board of Selectmen meeting 5.28.25

Summer Selectmen's Meeting Schedule – June 4th meeting will be at 4:30pm at the Town Hall in the Fire Department conference room. No other changes to the June schedule currently.

There was a brief discussion about budget issues which will be discussed at future meetings.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

None

NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS

Non-public session(s) per RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of a person

Motion was made by LaBelle to enter a nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II((c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of a person, seconded by Tempesta. All in favor by Roll Call and the ***motion passed*****.** The Board entered a nonpublic session at 7:16 p.m. Present were W. William Hutwelker III, James Tempesta and Mark LaBelle. Also present were Town Administrator Lori Rautiola and Recording Secretary Susan Ells.

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 7:37 pm.

Motion was made by LaBelle to seal the minutes because divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of a person other than a member of this Board, seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor and the ***motion passed***.

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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 7:53 pm.

Motion was made by LaBelle to seal the minutes because divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of a person other than a member of this Board, seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor and the ***motion passed***.

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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 8:20 pm.

Motion was made by LaBelle to seal the minutes because divulgence of the information likely would affect adversely the reputation of a person other than a member of this Board, seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor and the ***motion passed***.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Rautiola gave an update on the new Fire Station.

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 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Ells
Recording Secretary

Approved on October 22, 2025