Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting – August 13, 2025
Whitcomb Hall
17 Main Street, Swanzey, NH

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair William Hutwelker III at 01:03 p.m. at Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH. Also present were Selectmen James Tempesta and Mark Labelle. Also present was Administrative Assistant Katie Collins.

OTHERS PRESENT

Steven Russell and Susan Megas-Russell

Appointments

A. Steve Russell and Susan Megas-Russell

- The intention of the appointment is to see why her abatement was denied. She spoke with someone in town hall who told her that her property was assessed at 120% and surrounding neighbors were all assessed differently. She wanted to know what the process for assessing property was.
- Hutwelker said the assessor the Town has was not the assessor who assessed the property. When the Town received the application for abatement, there was no documentation attached as to why the Town should abate their taxes.
- Hutwelker said there are many reasons why their neighbors' properties would be assessed differently than hers.
- Susan asked what the solution was.
- LaBelle stated his reason for denial was lack of information.
- Susan said she is no expert and did not know where to find the information they needed. Can she go to the assessor and ask where to find the information?
- Hutwelker replied that she could go to the assessor and talk with him, but that the Board was not in a position to tell her.
- Hutwelker suggested that her next step would be to go to the Land Use of Field board if the Town denies her, but the Land Use of Field board will need the same information the Select Board needs as well.
- Susan asked why her neighbors' assessment goes down and hers goes up.
- Hutwelker replied that he does not know the answer to why her assessment went up.
- Susan said it does not sound right; she wasn't told she needed documentation. She thanked the board for their time.

B. Keith Bell

Keith Bell stated that the reason for his appointment was to show the equipment donations to the Board. He showed how the equipment worked and said that the equipment fits on the back of the trucks. Bell stated that he would like a press release issued regarding the donated equipment.

NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS

Non-public session(s) per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)

Motion was made by Mark Labelle to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(a) seconded by James Tempesta. All in favor by Roll Call and the ***motion passed*.** The Board entered nonpublic session at 01:58 p.m. Present was W. William Hutwelker III, Mark Labelle and James Tempesta. Also present was administrative assistant Katie Collins.

Motion was made by Mark Labelle to come out of non-public session, seconded by James Tempesta. All in favor by Roll Call and the ***motion passed***. Non-public session ended at 2:23 pm.

Motion was made by Mark 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 James Tempesta. All were in favor and the ***motion passed***.

Non-public session(s) per RSA 91-A:3 II(a) the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the discipling 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 seconded by Tempesta. All in favor by Roll Call and the ***motion passed*.** The Board entered nonpublic session at 2:26 p.m. Present was Chair William Hutwelker III, Marl Labelle and James Tempesta. Also present was Public Works Director Joe Dirusso and Administrative Assistant Katie Collins.

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 2:38 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***.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Hutwelker. The motion was seconded by Tempesta without further discussion. All were in favor. ***Motion passed.*** Adjournment occurred at 3:26 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katie Collins

Approved on November 12, 2025