Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting – December 31, 2025
Town Hall
620 Old Homestead Highway, Swanzey, NH

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Chair W. William Hutwelker III, at 8:30 am at Town Hall, 620 Old Homestead Highway, Swanzey, NH. Other members present were Selectmen James Tempesta and Mark LaBelle. Also present was Administrative Assistant Katie Collins

OTHERS PRESENT
Stephon Mehu

Fire Station
The Selectboard discussed encumbering additional funds for the Fire Station generator. It was noted that the Fire Station project is $20,000 over the amount originally allocated. The Board discussed the possibility of using funds from the Central Fire Station budget. Discussion about taking $25,000 from the operating budget to cover the additional cost.

It was further discussed that Gordon's plan specified an 80KW generator; however, the Fire Department requires a 100KW generator to meet operational needs.

The Selectboard also discussed the need for propane tanks for the generator. The estimated cost is $3,900 for three tanks, and it was noted that additional pricing will be obtained.

Motion: A motion was made by Labelle to encumber $25,000 from the operating budget to be used for the purchase and upfitting for the new Fire Station. Seconded by Tempesta. All in favor. ***Motion passed***.

Motion: A motion was made by Labelle to accept a quote in the amount of $4,000, to be funded from the General Fund, for the purchase of a sign for Ken Colby Athletic Park. Seconded by Tempesta. All in favor. ***Motion passed.***

Rail Trail Updates

Stephon Mehu updated the Selectboard on the status of the Rail Trail project. It was noted that the project is in good standing with respect to spending authorization through the end of 2026. Equipment will not be purchased at this time due to lack of storage space.

The Board was informed that the Town is awaiting guidance from the State Department of Transportation regarding the stability of the steel plates. The DOT has indicated uncertainty as to whether installation of the steel plates will be required.

It was noted that signage materials will be purchased in February, and groundbreaking is anticipated in the spring. The scope of work has been pushed to the end of January. Some expenditures will be made from the Rail Trail expendable fund.

Stephon also updated the Board that the Town was awarded $55,000 for the sidewalk project extending from the church to Talbot Hill. Abutter notification letters will be sent next week.

Motion: A motion was made by Labelle to approve the Southwest Region Planning Commission.

The Board discussed the **Division of Homeland Security and Engagement Management Grant** to update the Town's Hazardous Mitigation Plan. The Select Board concurred with the grant agreement. **Motion: A motion was made by LaBelle to accept the terms of the Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program as presented in the amount of $11,812.50 for updating the local hazard mitigation plan. Furthermore, the Board acknowledges that the total cost of this project will be $15,750, in which the Town will be responsible for a 25% match, totaling $3,937.50. Tempesta seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Motion: A motion was made by Labelle to authorize Board Chair Hutwelker to sign the Certificate of Authority. Tempesta seconded. ***Motion passed.***

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

A motion was made by Hutwelker to enter a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) which was seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor by Roll Call and the motion passed**.** The Board entered the non-public session at 9:22am. Present were W. William Hutwelker III, James Tempesta and Mark LaBelle. Also present were Administrative Assistant Katie Collins.

A *motion* was made by LaBelle to come out of the non-public session, seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor by Roll Call and the ***motion passed.*** The Non-public session ended at 9:34 am.

A 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; Tempesta seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by LaBelle to adjourn the meeting; Tempesta seconded the motion. All in favor. ***Motion passed***.

Adjournment occurred at 9:34am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Collins

Approved on January 13, 2026