Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting – January 7, 2026
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 pm. 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

Kai Kraemer with FACT TV, Finance Director Theresa Lounder, Mark Scalera

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Labelle to approve the Consent Agenda. Tempesta seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

A. Payroll Manifest
B. Accounts Payable Manifest
C. LIHTC Properties Set Tax - M/232 L/14- M/232 L/21- M/110 L/70- M/232 L/53
D. Tax Supplement Warrant – M/232 L/14
E. Tax Supplement Warrant – M/232 L/21
F. Tax Supplement Warrant – M/210 L/12
G. Tax Abatement – M/210 L/12
H. Tax Abate and Refund – M/232 L/53
I. Tax Abate and Refund – M/110 L/70
J. Warrant Yield Tax Levy- M/218 L/73-M/218 L/88
K. Warrant Yield Tax Levy- M/204 L/14
L. Warrant Yield Tax Levy-M/233 L/20

OLD BUSINESS

A. Budget Update -as needed – Theresa Lounder provided the report that has the updated budget by the 2% merit increase and increased the Town Clerk's budget line had been adjusted to accommodate the extra election supplies and staffing. $8,926,720 – 6.65% over last year. Default is 6.23%. Chair Hutwelker asked if the This will be presented at the Budget Hearing.

B. 2026 Town Warrant Review & Update as needed

Lori reviewed the 2026 Warrant items and explained the openings for 2 new seats for Board of Selectmen to satisfy the 5-person board as determined in the 2025 election.

C. Swanzey Preservation Committee reached out to see if they could arrange and host a "Candidates Night' for the upcoming election. The Board was in favor of this idea.

D. Water and Sewer Committee – this is a new committee the Board is organizing. Names have been suggested and those people are interested.

E. 250th Signing of the Declaration of Independence Committee– this is a new committee being organized for the celebration. Names have been suggested and those people are interested.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Acceptance of NH Dept of Safety-Homeland Security & Emergency Management Grant ($11,812.50) – The Board had already approved this at the December 31st meeting.

B. The Board and Rautiola reviewed the plans for the Budget hearing that will be held on Tuesday, January 13th.

PUBLIC INPUT

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

A motion was made by LaBelle 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 6:18pm. Present were W. William Hutwelker III, James Tempesta and Mark LaBelle. Also present were Town Administrator Lori Rautiola and Recording Secretary Susan Ells.

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 6:59pm.

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 3-0.

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.*

A motion was made by LaBelle to enter a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) which was seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor by Roll Call and the motion passed**.** The Board entered the non-public session at 7:00pm. Present were W. William Hutwelker III, James Tempesta and Mark LaBelle. Also present were Town Administrator Lori Rautiola and Recording Secretary Susan Ells.

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 7:17pm.

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.*

A motion was made by LaBelle to enter a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) which was seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor by Roll Call and the motion passed**.** The Board entered the non-public session at 7:18pm. Present were W. William Hutwelker III, James Tempesta and Mark LaBelle. Also present were Town Administrator Lori Rautiola and Recording Secretary Susan Ells.

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 7:26pm.

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 3-0.

- The Board suggested dedicating the Annual report to Mark Chamberlain and Wally Smith. Any other suggestions should be provided to Rautiola.
- Tempesta said Liz and John Traynor would like a conversation about Christian Hill Bridge. Hutwelker offered to take the meeting.
- The board made an adjustment to the Budget of an increase of $9,000 for a total of $8,935,720.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by LaBelle to adjourn the meeting; Tempesta seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Adjournment occurred at 7:33pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Ells, Recording Secretary

Approved on January 13, 2026