Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting – March 10, 2026
Monadnock Regional Middle High School
600 Old Homestead Highway - Swanzey, NH

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair W. William Hutwelker III, at 6:30 pm at the Monadnock Regional Middle High School, Swanzey, NH during Town Election. Other members present were Selectmen James Tempesta and Mark LaBelle. Also present were Town Administrator Lori Rautiola and Recording Secretary Susan Ells.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Payroll Manifest
B. Accounts Payable Manifest
C. Intent to Cut Map 237 (old) 240 Lot 30

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

PUBLIC INPUT

None

NOMINATIONS

A. Jessica Sanchez – Economic Development Advisory Committee

Chair Hutwelker told the Board that the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) had recommended Jessica Sanchez to be considered for the committee.

LaBelle made a motion to appoint Jessica Sanchez to the Economic Development Advisory Committee. Tempesta seconded the motion; with no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Hutwelker reported he met with EDAC and that they questioned the $10,000 allocation of their budget line and their frustrations the Committee was not consulted. Hutwelker stated he informed the Committee he had some ideas of things the committee could do. Chair Cathy Bergstrom suggested providing a welcome wagon gift for new residents. He told them he feels this will be a pivotal year for the committee. He also explained to EDAC he had a conversation with Town Planner, Adam Paquette, and suggested that the Committee should have been consulted with the Zoning audit and Paquette agreed to include them going forward.

Hutwelker stated there are opportunities for the committee to work on, such as listing commercial properties on the Town website; adding now that the Town's website is being revised, this would be an opportune time. He suggested the Chair, Cathy Bergstrom to reach out to Lori Rautiola and Christine Smith to discuss this further. He further suggested Cathy and the Committee coordinate with Ryan Avery to have a ribbon cutting ceremony for Gridiron Construction. Hutwelker stated the Committee should investigate how Hinsdale is coordinating events for local businesses to celebrate them. Hutwelker noted that Cathy had informed the committee that she has tried to reach out to FW Webb to organize a celebration to thank them for choosing Swanzey-but had no response.

Lori explained when she and Town Planner Paquette sat down to go over his budgets their intent was to combine the line item within the Planning Budget. They noticed the funds had not been expended over the last two years and at the Board's discretion to keep budget within a 5% increase, both agreed to use the funds for the Zonin audit. She added it was an oversight, but they also did not receive a request for funding from EDAC. Tempesta reminded the Board it was the first year Paquette had been involved in budget planning since the former Town Administrator had handled it. Paquette would like an opportunity to explain things to the Board.

Tempesta mentioned he had been asked how much property along Route 10 could be developed. Hutwelker described many opportunities within a mile and mostly along the west since the east side has quite a bit of wetlands. Tempesta suggested the Board come up with a strategy and discuss it at a future meeting to purchase the Water Company, perhaps buying and running it before moving forward with improvements and increasing water storage.

Chair Hutwelker reported he met with the Trustees of Stratton Library to review the proposed easements with the Clarks. He described the easement from the Town to the Clarks would provide them with approximately 10 feet for the driveway the Clarks were using which is currently on Town property; this easement would stipulate they would need to keep the same footprint. In exchange, the Town would have an easement of an undefined area around the library to allow for maintenance on the building and the installation of a mini split unit including the possibility of placing a pad for the unit on the ground. He doesn't expect any pushbacks, but if the Clarks refuse, the Town would file with the Registry of Deeds so if the Clarks try to sell their property, it will show the driveway is on the Town property. One more easement is needed from Ken and Sharon Greatbatch who appear willing to consider it.

Chair Hutwelker asked for Board consensus to allow him to continue with this project even if he does not get re-elected. The Board was in agreement- consensus was given.

Resident Kristen Goodenough, resident, asked if the Board was aware of the Taft Road drainage problem. She noted when the Town improved the road, trenches were dug and the road was narrowed; adding She there were large rocks in the trenches, and water was not draining. She reported that after the winter, the road was narrower than it was in the fall due to erosion. Hutwelker suggested she reach out to Lori Rautiola, and they could have a meeting with DPW Director, Joe DiRusso.

Chair Hutwelker commended Stephon Mehu and Bob Audette for all their hard work to meet the deadline for congressional spending funds deadline.

Lori noted Bill had prepared a training session for the select board members with the Town Attorney on Monday, March 16th at 9am and the next board meeting will be on March 18th, which will be the first meeting to include the five members.

Hutwelker noted Joe DiRusso had asked about placing 'No Overnight Parking' signs in public areas. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS

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

A motion was made by LaBelle to enter a nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (b) which was seconded by Tempesta. All were in favor by Roll Call and the motion passed**.** The Board entered the non-public session at 7:07pm. 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 7:15pm.

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.

LaBelle made a motion to recess the meeting at 7:16pm. Tempesta seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Adjournment occurred at 10:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Ells, Recording Secretary

Approved on March 18, 2026