Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting – May 12, 2026
Town Hall - Swanzey, NH

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tempesta reconvened the May 11, 2026 Selectboard meeting at 9:02am on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at the Swanzey Town Hall. Other members present were Selectmen W. William Hutwelker, Mark Labelle, James Ward and Alan Gross. Also present were Town Administrator Lori Rautiola and Tax Collector Kevin Westcott.

Chair Tempesta asked everyone to offer their thoughts regarding the proposal from the Macks. Tempesta said he hasn't made up his mind. It is a nice house, but he isn't clear on how the Town might use it. Kevin Westcott made the point that losing tax revenue hurts every resident in the Town; he would hate to see the building torn down or removed from the tax rolls. Alan Gross pointed out that if the building is torn down, the Town would lose the tax revenue anyway. Jay Ward suggested some possible uses which include using the building for archive storage, or for the town recreation department headquarters. He said that if the Town wished to act as a landlord, the house could be leased to someone whose rent would cover the lost taxes and provide money for building upkeep. Lori Rautiola expressed that she does not see much value for the Town, especially as we have other properties the Town owns and maintains, such as the Carpenter Home and the Grange. Bill Hutwelker proposed a possible alternate counter proposal which the Board agreed would require further thought and discussion.

Jay Ward was tasked with communicating to the Macks that the Board had discussed the proposal, that they were not ready to accept it, and that they might have an alternative to suggest. The Board will be in touch once Jay Ward returns from his travels and can continue the discussion.

Chair Tempesta then shared an update on the Posting of the open Finance Director position, including where the opening had been posted. The Board then discussed the search process. It was decided that initial screening of applicants would be done by Lori Rautiola, Theresa Lounder, and Meagan Kerris. First Interviews would then be conducted by these three plus one or two individual(s) still to be determined. Final interviews would be conducted by Lori and the Select Board.

A motion was made by Mark Labelle to adjourn, seconded by Jay Ward. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Ward
Board Secretary

Approved on May 20, 2026