Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting – June 2, 2026
Town Hall - Swanzey, NH

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Chair Jimmy Tempesta at Swanzey Town Hall, Swanzey, NH. Other members present were Selectmen W. William Hutwelker, Mark Labelle, James Ward and Alan Gross. Also present were Town Administrator Lori Rautiola, Police Chief Joe Gonsalves, DPW Director Joe DiRusso, Recreation Director Ashley Crosby, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Burke, Fire Chief Eric Mattson, Tax Collector Kevin Westcott, Welfare Office Jess Russell, Assessing & Technology Coordinator Christine Smith, Finance Director Theresa Lounder, and HR Coordinator Megan Kerris.

Chair Tempesta outlined the Board's plan to aid in the transition to a new Town Administrator and asked for feedback. It was clear that all were unhappy with the way the transition occurred last time and supported the Board's plan not to engage an interim town administrator. Individuals expressed their feelings concerning how their work could be best supported by the Board and shared some of their apprehensions about the transition. The Board emphasized that the intent was to support the work of town employees, not to interfere, and that the expectation was that everyone would work together, sharing our thoughts and feelings during the transition.

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

A motion was made by Mark LaBelle to enter a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) which was seconded by Jay Ward. All were in favor by Roll Call and the motion passed. The Board entered the non-public session at 9am. Present were James Tempesta, Mark LaBelle, W. William Hutwelker III, James Ward and Alan Gross. Also present was Town Administrator Lori Rautiola.

A motion was made by Mark LaBelle to come out of the non-public session, seconded by Jay Ward. All were in favor by Roll Call and the motion passed. The non-public session ended at 9:20am.

Lori left the meeting.

The board discussed impressions of the meeting with the town department heads and firmed up plans for how the work of support through the transition would be conducted. Jay agreed to work with Lori on her list of projects in progress. Bill agreed to investigate costs for engaging a search firm without any commitment from the town at this point.

A motion was made by Labelle to Adjourn, seconded by Ward. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:35am

Respectfully Submitted,

James Ward
Board Secretary

Approved on June 3, 2026