Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting – July 29, 2026
Whitcomb Hall
17 Main Street, Swanzey, NH

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Chair James Tempesta at 5:30pm at Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH. Other members present were Selectmen Mark LaBelle, W William Hutwelker, and Alan Gross. Also present was Recording Secretary Susan Ells.

ABSENT
James Ward

OTHERS PRESENT
Kai Kraemer with FACT TV, Corey Spetelunas, Emma Bell, and Frank Linnenberinger with NHDOT, Scott Self, Sara Barrett

MINUTES
The regular meeting minutes of July 22, 2026, and July 23, 2026, were considered. A motion was made by Mark LaBelle to approve the minutes as presented. Alan Gross seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

The non-public session minutes of July 22, 2026, sessions 1 and 2; and July 23, 2026, sessions 1, 2, and 3 were considered. A motion was made by Mark LaBelle to approve the minutes as presented. Alan Gross seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

CONSENT AGENDA
A. Payroll Manifest
B. Accounts Payable Manifest
C. Open Container Permit – Whitcomb Hall-Goodell
D. Raffle Permit- Mama Mcdonough's
A motion was made by Mark LaBelle to approve the Consent Agenda. Bill Hutwelker seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

APPOINTMENTS
A. Corey Spetelunas and Emma Bell – NHDOT Highway Safety Project Manager Route 12 Rumble Strip Project
Corey Spetelunas is the Project Manager for the NHDOT's project to install rumble strips on Routes 9, 11, and 12. The DOT has reached out to the affected municipalities to offer presentations to explain the project which is to mitigate vehicles from leaving their lane. He provided crash data and fatality statistics due to roadway departures. In the past they installed the rectangular corrugated rumble strips – those are only used on interstates now due to the exterior noise. Instead, they are using sinusoidal 'mumble' strips which have a lower decibel level, so they are less offensive to the neighborhoods (he provided a comparison of about half the level as the ones that were installed in Chesterfield). They are installed on roads that meet the minimum requirements of 40 mph speed limit, the road is 28'wide for center strips and must have 6' shoulders for the shoulder strips. This method has proven to reduce fatal and injury crashes. It is a low-cost safety measure costing approximately $12K/mile. It has a short construction exposure (a recent project completed 50 miles in 2 weeks). Mr. Spetelunas' presentation provided statistics from before and after rumble strips have been

installed, and even though traffic volume went up, the crashes went down. Next, he showed the location of proposed installations which will primarily have the center line installation; in Swanzey, the installation will be on Route 12. The project is federally funded and is expected to start in Spring 2027 and be completed by Fall 2027. They will continue to study the statistics post-implementation.

Chair Tempesta thanked the group for providing the presentation and for their work.

B. Sara Barrett- Consulting LLC

Sara has been a fundraising professional for 20 years; she began her own consulting business over 6 years ago and worked on the 100 Nights Capital Campaign, and Keene Housing Kids Collaborative as well as a comprehensive range of fundraising activities. Grant writing is one of those activities. Bill Hutwelker told Sara that Steve Fortier highly recommended her.

The Town is seeking a Northern Borders grant for the proposed Wastewater treatment project which could provide feasibility funds up to $100K for the early design phase so the Town can bring the project to the voters; then the Town could apply for basic infrastructure grant up to $1million for construction.

Scott Self asked if it would be to the Town's advantage to apply for both grants at the same time. Sara replied that since the Town has not received local approval yet, it might make sense to apply for the feasibility study grant first for early architectural engineering design work. Scott explained that the Town is in the preliminary stage of engineering study to choose a route and asked if the Town received the grant for $100K and didn't need it all, could a change of scope be approved to use the money toward the construction. Sara responded that typically a Town could not apply more than once to span the years of the construction, but guidelines tend to change from year to year. Bill asked about the multi-municipality infrastructure since the wastewater project will involve Keene; Sara said the 2 municipalities would need to work together and might be eligible for up to $3million. He asked if she has the capacity to apply for other grants and she replied that she does at the federal and state level.

Sara recommended setting up a pre-application meeting with Northern Borders and she can coordinate this meeting via Zoom and recommended that Scott be included along with the Board. She could also assist with grants for the Grange Hall. Bill also asked about the aquatic situation at Wilson Pond, and she can help with that as well. Bill asked if a Town could apply for multiple Northern Borders Grants at the same time. Sara thought it might depend on how much of one project is complete before applying for another, but she will verify. Typically, a 3-year timeframe is allowed to complete the project, but an extension can be requested.

Sara will provide a contract for the Board to review for this first phase. The Board thanked her for her presentation.

PUBLIC INPUT

Scott Self told the Board that on October 8th the Preservation Society is hosting a motorcycle fundraising event at the Grange Hall and they would like to have the capacity limit of 50 people restored for that day; he will talk with the Fire Chief to gain his approval and then he will provide more details.

Next, Scott asked the Board to decide on the new sewer rate which he had reviewed at the previous meeting so that the billing can be done for the next quarter.

Alan Gross made a motion to set the new rate at 2 cents per gallon for the treatment of wastewater; all meter users will be charged that rate, and all unmetered users will be charged a flat rate. Mark LaBelle seconded the motion; all were in favor and the motion carried.

Scott also stated that the Town needs to adopt a standard procedure to follow to set the rate each year.

The next step is to create a letter to provide notice to the meter users with the reasons for the increases prior to the billing in September. The Board will set up meetings with Scott, Steve Bittel and the Board to speak with them. Bill asked about adding a hook-up fee for the sewer system to help build the capital reserve. Scott will investigate that question.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Honeybee Hollow 2026-2027 Lease Agreement

Mark LaBelle made a motion to accept the proposed 2026-2027 Honeybee Hollow Lease as presented and authorize the selectboard chair to sign the lease on behalf of the board. The motion was seconded by Alan Gross; with no further discussion, the motion carried.

B. Whitcomb Hall Rental Options

This will be delayed until a future meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Final Decision on Town Phone System

Bill announced that they have made a decision regarding the new phone system; there is a question remaining regarding the existing phone system, so he left a message and hope he'll get an answer tomorrow.

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 Mark LaBelle to enter a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) which was seconded by Alan Gross. All were in favor by Roll Call and the motion passed**.** The Board entered the non-public session at 6:56pm. Present were James Tempesta, Mark LaBelle, W. William Hutwelker III, and Alan Gross. Also present were Recording Secretary Susan Ells and Scott Self.

A motion was made by Mark LaBelle to come out of the non-public session, seconded by Alan Gross. All were in favor by Roll Call and the motion passed. The non-public session ended at 7:26pm.

A motion was made by Mark 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; Alan Gross seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

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 Mark LaBelle to enter a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) which was seconded by Alan Gross. All were in favor by Roll Call and the motion passed**.** The Board entered the non-

public session at 7:29pm. Present were James Tempesta, Mark LaBelle, W. William Hutwelker III, and Alan Gross. Also present was Recording Secretary Susan Ells.

A motion was made by Mark LaBelle to come out of the non-public session, seconded by Alan Gross. All were in favor by Roll Call and the motion passed. The non-public session ended at 7:30pm.

Mark Labelle made a motion to approve the Application for Veteran's Property Tax Credit/Exemption for Map 103 Lot 111. Alan Gross seconded the motion; Bill Hutwelker, Alan Gross and James Tempesta were in favor; Mark LaBelle abstained. The motion carried 3-0.

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 Mark LaBelle to enter a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) which was seconded by Alan Gross. All were in favor by Roll Call and the motion passed**.** The Board entered the non-public session at 7:31pm. Present were James Tempesta, Mark LaBelle, W. William Hutwelker III, and Alan Gross. Also present was Recording Secretary Susan Ells.

A motion was made by Mark LaBelle to come out of the non-public session, seconded by Alan Gross. All were in favor by Roll Call and the motion passed. The non-public session ended at 7:39pm.

A motion was made by Mark 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; Alan Gross seconded the motion, and it passed 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made by Mark LaBelle to adjourn the meeting; Alan Gross seconded the motion, and it carried.

Adjournment occurred at 7:39pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Ells, Recording Secretary

Approved on August 5, 2026