Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting – August 18, 2026
Swanzey Center Fire Station
Route 32, Swanzey, NH

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was opened by Chair James Tempesta at 9:33am. Also present were board members Alan Gross, Bill Hutwelker, Mark LaBelle, and James Ward.

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 Jay Ward. All were in favor by Roll Call and the motion passed**.** The Board entered the non-public session at 9:34am. Present were James Tempesta, Mark LaBelle, W. William Hutwelker III, James Ward and Alan Gross. Also present was Fire Chief Eric Mattson.

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 9:51am.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

NEW BUSINESS

The Board signed letters to be sent to the residents of Aldrich Road concerning the name change taking place in September.

Assistant Chief Mick Santos and Deputy Chief Mike Burke joined the meeting.

The Board discussed various matters related to the fire department.

- The station rosters seem to be in good shape.
- The committee planning the October 10 Open House will be meeting soon.
- Training is progressing well. We should have 6-7 new department members with Firefighter 1 certification by the end of this year. The new regional training officer has been helpful.
- The need for both a new truck to replace engine 2 and a command vehicle to replace an aging vehicle was discussed in light of other town needs. It was decided that we need a firm price for the new engine, the cost for refurbishing engine 1, along with the price for the new command vehicle to take to the CIP planning process this fall.

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 Jay Ward. All were in favor by Roll Call and the motion passed. The Board entered the non-public session at 11:02 am. Also present were Fire Chief Eric Mattson, Assistant Chief Mick Santos, and Deputy Chief Mike Burke.

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 11:18am.

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; Jay Ward seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

The department received a fire call and the very first response from the new station to a call was initiated around 11:20 am. The Board observed the truck leaving the station and took a video to commemorate the event.

The Board reviewed the agenda for Wednesday's meeting. Mark Labelle relayed the need for the Board to discuss the Hazardous Mitigation Plan at the Board meeting. Stephon Mehu will send a memo to the board concerning this item.

Mark Labelle made a motion to accept the terms of the Highway Safety Grant as presented in the amount of $8,500.00, along with the amended grant terms in the amount of $2,029.50, as presented in the Grant Agreement Amendment Notice, for an adjusted total grant limitation of $10,529.50. Jay Ward seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mark LaBelle to allow Chair Tempesta to sign the agreement with Emertech to provide phone service. The motion was seconded by Alan Gross. All were in favor and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Mark LaBelle to approve the payment of invoices from Grayson for change orders related to the stair installation at Town Hall. Specifically, the Board authorized the payment of invoice #8880 for $1830 and invoice 8881 for $4860. The motion was seconded by Jay Ward. All were in favor and the motion passed.

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 Jay Ward. All were in favor by Roll Call and the motion passed. The Board entered the non-public session at 11:36 am.

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 11:48am.

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; Jay Ward seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

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 (b) 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 11:48 am.

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 12:18pm.

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; Jay Ward seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by to adjourn by LaBelle, seconded by Ward. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 12:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Ward, Board Secretary

Approved on August 26, 2026