Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting – September 30, 2026
Town Hall
620 Old Homestead Hwy, Swanzey, NH

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Chair James Tempesta at 4:30 pm at Town Hall, Old Homestead, Swanzey, NH. Other members present were Selectmen Mark LaBelle, W William Hutwelker, James Ward and Alan Gross. Also present was Administrative Assistant Katie Collins.

OTHERS PRESENT
Adam Paquette, Kevin Westcott, Ashlee Crosby, Joe Gonsalves, Josh Whipple, Heather Estrella, Eric Mattson

Budget Update
Jim Tempesta opened the meeting and introduced the Town's new Finance Director, André Jaeger. André Jaeger discussed a memo he will be sending to department heads regarding anticipated cost increases and a timeline for the upcoming budget process. Each department will prepare its budget, and André will review the submissions and assist with identifying any necessary adjustments. André noted that inflation is affecting costs and that this may not be the year for "nice-to-haves," but rather focusing on necessary expenditures.

Jim Tempesta discussed the possibility of budget cutbacks. Bill Hutwelker also spoke regarding the increasing costs.

Heather Estrella asked about increasing the amount allocated for road funds through vehicle registrations. Theresa explained that those amounts are established by the State.

André stated that the budget memo will be distributed the following day and that his goal is to have everyone's budget submitted by October 16.

Theresa discussed payroll and asked whether the Board still wanted to proceed with no changes to the current wage increase. She also stated that the goal is to have all employee reviews completed before January.

Theresa further discussed requests for new budget line items. She explained that if a department needs a new line added, the request should be submitted as soon as possible so that the changes can be addressed together. Bill asked what the benefit would be. Theresa explained that it would allow departments to better identify and see the expenditures within their budgets. André clarified that the existing line numbers would not be changed and that departments would still be able to see what each department is spending.

Josh Whipple discussed the possibility of updating the prices for items at the Recycling Center.

The Board held a general discussion regarding concerns and anticipated needs for each department's upcoming budget.

Heather asked whether the following year might be an appropriate time to consider increasing the Deputy Town Clerk position to full-time. Theresa stated that she could run the numbers.

Heather also discussed the possibility of having an ATM located in the Town Hall lobby and asked what the potential benefit would be. Jim asked Heather to investigate the matter and follow up with the Board.

NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS

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 nonpublic 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 5:06 pm. Present were James Tempesta, Mark LaBelle, W. William Hutwelker III, James Ward and Alan Gross. Also present was Administrative Assistant Katie Collins.

A motion was made by Mark LaBelle to come out of the non-public session, seconded by Jay Ward. All were in favor and the motion passed. The non-public session ended at 5:36 pm.

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; all were in favor by Roll Call and it passed 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mark LaBelle to adjourn the meeting; Jay Ward seconded the motion, and it passed 5-0.

Adjournment occurred at 5:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Collins, Administrative Assistant

Approved on October 14, 2026