Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Board of Selectmen
Meeting – November 13, 2026
Town Hall, Upper Conference Room, Swanzey, NH

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair James Tempesta at 8:58am at the Town Hall, Upper Conference Room, Swanzey, NH. Other members present were Selectmen Mark LaBelle, W William Hutwelker, James Ward and Town Administrator Jeremy Bourgeois. Also present was Finance Director Andre Jaeger.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

NEW BUSINESS

The Board accepted a donation from James Ward and Ann Heffernon to be placed in the Wilson Pond non-restricted fund.

Selectman Alan Gross joined the meeting at 9:07 am.

NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS

Non-public session(s) per RSA 91-A:3, II *(a) the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such 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 9:07am. Present were James Tempesta, Mark LaBelle, W. William Hutwelker III, James Ward and Alan Gross. Also present was Town Administrator Jeremy Bourgeois, Finance Director Andre Jaeger.

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 9:26am.

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.

The Board then turned to a careful look at department budgets.

1. **Health Agencies**. There were significant increases to the amounts requested by the various agencies compared to last year. The Board was reminded that these are voluntary donations from the town. The Board made the decision to consider donating to the agencies in 2027 at the level they received in 2026 and budgeting a zero amount for the agencies which had not asked for a donation for 2027. The Board will consider adding a small donation to the Keene Kids Collaborative and a possibly a similar amount for Love Thy Neighbor. If these actions are approved, the working budget would be reduced by more than $41,000.

2. **General Assistance**. The Board decided to reduce the Housing Budget to $100,000 and to create an Expendable Trust Account to be approved by the Voters in March to be. funded from the undesignated Fund Balance. This fund would be used in case of shortfalls in any of the General Assistance items. The overall effect would be to reduce budgeted expenditures by $15,000.

3. **Recycling**. Josh Whipple happened to join the meeting, and the Board asked him to try and cut $5 ,000 to $10,000 from his budget, making up the shortfall by increasing fees and considering charging for transfer station stickers. The Board congratulated Josh on presenting a thorough and well-documented budget. Josh then left the meeting.

4. **Highway and Streets**. The Board discussed some items, but the general feeling was that the Public Works Director had presented a tight and well-thought-out budget. While there was initially some feeling that projected fuel costs did not appear to reflect the fact that some of those costs assumed by DPW this year would be assumed by Recycling in 2027, a closer look revealed reasonable amounts based on projected increases in the costs of fuels in 2027.

5. **Carpenter Home**. The Board did not find any reason to change the amounts.

6. **Bridges**. The Board will ask Joe DiRusso if the amount for cameras is a one-time expense and therefore better placed in CIP.

7. **Streetlights**. The Board did not find any reason to change the amounts.

8. **Dams**. The Board did not find any reason to change the amounts.

9. **Wastewater**
    a. **Treatment**. The Board has questions about the entry for Legal and Professional fees.
    b. **North Swanzey Pass Through Users**. The Board did not find any reason to change the amounts.
    c. **North Swanzey Wastewater**. The Board did not find any reason to change the amounts.

10. **Energy**. The Board did not find any reason to change the amounts.

11. **Conservation**. The Board did not find any reason to change the amounts.

12. **Economic Development District**. The Board did not find any reason to change the amounts.

13. **Fire Department**. The large increase is due mostly to the increase in charges for Emergency Services, a $178,682 increase over last year. There is very little the Town can do about this increase. The Board has questions for the Fire Chief at the meeting we have on Tuesday, November 17 related to the budgeted amounts for salaries.

14. **Police Department**. The Board will look at this in detail once the Police Chief returns from his vacation.

Andre Jaeger left the meeting at 11:16 am.

NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS

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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 11:23am. Present were James Tempesta, Mark LaBelle, W. William Hutwelker III, James Ward and Alan Gross. Also present was Town Administrator Jeremy Bourgeois and Director of Planning and Community Development Adam Paquette.

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 11:44am.

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

Adjournment occurred at 11:50am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jay Ward, Board Secretary

Approved on November 18, 2026