Agenda 10.15.25 SGC

Swanzey Governance Committee
Meeting Agenda for Monday, October 15th, 2025
3:00 – 5:00 pm, Whitcomb Hall

I. Call to order

Approve meeting notes of 10.6.25

IV. Old Business - Town Meeting

- Mandate
- Looked at various forms of government
- Narrowed it down to two forms of government
- Discussed the pros and cons of SB2 and Traditional
- We are recommend… We determine that we should move towards a Town Meeting with the caveat that if this is put on the warrant and does not pass that the town take steps to provide open forums either by topic, department or village on a regular basis to help create better communications for our citizens.
- What will we say to people who ask us why we would do this? Less than six hundred people voted on the question to move to SB2 (they voted on the specific questions at town meeting).
- How can we ensure that we can attract more than 600 people in the future to these meeting – We need a deep dive into how this will work for the average voter that is not confusing.
    - We will provide Child care
    - We will hold it on a Saturday
    - We will have a concession stand/or provide food
    - Breaks to allow for private conversations
    - We are assuming people will care enough to come and debate the warrants.
    - This environment provides people the ability to have a voice in the politics of a town
    - How can we make this fun and entertaining? What will happen that can make this interesting to those that are not engaged?
    - What if we queried people about what it would take to get them to come to a town meeting? What inducements? Remember you could come and just vote on just articles one and two and not attend the meeting but not have a say in the warrants. (Question, can people show up at any time and sign in to the town meeting? Do you only have to check in once? Or would you need to check in twice, two exits)? Maybe the food needs to be outside in a tent? Do we stamp people's hands to know that they have checked in if they leave?
    - Can we guarantee all voices will be heard? We will need a lot of assistant moderators and a way to signal this to the moderator.
    - What would be the logistics? Where would check in be?

We need to start doing the videos, which we will need scripts fpr.

What are the topics? Things that will be warrants?;

Budget

Mark L, what things are likely to be on the ballot (i.e. moving funds from Capitol reserve account to purchase a new fire truck), looking ahead for funding such as the funding we will need for emergency services which will occur on the 2027 ballot. I can ask if the Selectboard can give us a bit of time to help us come up with some of these questions. Who would like to come with me, OR, should we invite them to our meeting which might be a better solution. Can we reserve the small room in Whitcomb Hall, or another location next week and record some of these?

When can we have our first public hearing?

VI. Other Business

1. Any other new business?

VII. Next Meeting Time(s):

Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 22 at 3:00 PM

IV. Adjournment

Mandate: Our task is to gather information, and explore the pros and cons of different forms of town governance in addition to the possible return of a town meeting format. Should we determine a recommended plan we need to find a way to meet with and hear from the town residents as well as submit a proposal to the Select Board and the town by late November for eventual inclusion on the 2026 Warrant. This is subject to change based on the Selectboards charge.