

Selectmen's Meeting – February 1, 2006

Present were Selectmen Robert A. Beauregard, Deborah J. Davis and Francis W. Faulkner, Jr. Also present was Town Administrator Elizabeth Fox.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Chairman Beauregard.

Financial Matters. Selectmen reviewed and approved accounts payable and payroll manifests.

DRA Equalization Survey. Selectmen voted to authorize the chair to execute on behalf of the board all documents necessary to transmit the equalization survey information to the Town.

Monadnock Regional School District. Selectmen were advised of the upcoming district deliberative session, Saturday 2/4. Information received from the District Business Manager regarding the expected tax rate impact of the district proposals was also provided to board members.

East Swanzey Community House. Selectmen were provided a copy of a letter to the editor regarding the community house and an upcoming event.

Dam Removal. Selectmen were provided with a copy of a recent Nashua Telegraph article regarding dam removal under consideration in Merrimack. Swanzey's ongoing consideration of issue of the Homestead Woolen Mill Dam was referenced in the article.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. A cover letter regarding the program was distributed to board members. Information regarding the program has been distributed to the Police & Fire Chiefs, DPW Director and Emergency Management Director.

Thompson Covered Bridge. Impacts of scour on the bridge were discussed with concern expressed about spring floods and summer drop of the water around the bridge's center pier.

Public Informational Meeting – NH Route 32 Shared Shoulder "Sidewalk" Project. Chairman Beauregard opened the public informational meeting on the project at 7 p.m. reading the public notice provided. Engineers from HTA reviewed the project proposed with the public present. The project developed from the town's request to include a sidewalk in the bridge replacement project completed a few year's ago north of the High School. The project is being funded through transportation enhancement dollars with the state share set at 80% and the town's portion at 20%. Engineers reviewed the proposed construction which involves building a shared shoulder 8' wide running north from the end of the sidewalk constructed as part of the bridge project to Neighbor's store. Some signs and a mailbox will require relocation. A crosswalk between the High School and Elementary School will also be relocated. The project schedule, planned to bid in March for construction during the summer when school is out, was reviewed. The project is all in

the state right of way. The informational meeting was opened for public comment. The meeting was opened for public comments. Ed Aron expressed concern about the impact of the project on abutter's lawns and asked why the shoulder needed to be so wide. Engineers responded advising that the width was to provide greater safety for walkers and bikers utilizing the shoulder area. Whether the shoulder could be 4', 5' or 6' wide was discussed by meeting attendees at length. Gerry Bell expressed his concern that a 8' shoulder might be used as a driving lane. Stripping between the shoulder and the road was also discussed at length with stripping methods utilized in other parts of the country discussed. Chairman Beauregard closed the informational meeting.

Proposed Road – Forest View Estates, Owen's Road. Selectmen met with Larry Koch and Attorney Mike Bentley who expressed their displeasure with the Selectmen's decision on 1/25 to set the bond requirement for the new town road to be constructed at \$ 150,000. Bentley queried why a bond was even required since the road was all on Mr. Koch's property and if not built he felt no one was at risk but Mr. Koch. Town subdivision requirements necessitate bonding and since Mr. Koch desired to have his 3 lot subdivision recorded bonding needed to be provided to ensure road frontage for the 3 lots created. Mr. Koch reviewed the prices he had received from 2 contractors to construct the road, both being less than \$ 100,000 for 1,200' of roadway. He advised that he felt that he could build the road for less since he would not have to purchase earth material for its construction. Both material for the cuts and fills required, as well as the gravel to build the road, can be found on site according to Mr. Koch. Selectmen discussed the cost estimates they had received for other roads constructed in town and the need to assure that the town, not just the developer, can have the road built for the amount bonded. Selectmen advised they needed to ensure that the town was protected and that had driven their decision regarding bonding requirements. After discussion, and a request from Attorney Bentley that the bond requirement for the road be set at \$100,000, Selectmen voted to set the bond requirement for the proposed road at \$100,000. The proposed road plans, satisfying the requirements of the DPW Director, must still be submitted. A time table for the security will also need to be developed as Selectmen advised they did not want to see the top coat of pavement placed until construction of the proposed development to the west of the new road was complete or close to it reducing use of the final top coat by equipment and heavy trucks related to the condo project.

Current Use Forest Management Plans. Selectmen reviewed and executed correspondence directed to current use landowners with stewardship requesting an update of their records.

Minutes of Previous Meetings. Selectmen reviewed and approved the minutes of their meeting of January 25, 2006.

Town of Swanzy v. Delbert Buckley. Selectmen reviewed and executed a Petition for Contempt directed to Mr. Buckley due to his failure to comply with the Agreement for Judgment reached between the Town in Mr. Buckley in 1993.

Deliberative Session. Selectmen reviewed warrant, budget and default budget in preparation for the upcoming 2/7 deliberative session.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator