

SELECTMEN'S MEETING – JANUARY 21, 2009

*Minutes are not final until reviewed and approved by the Board.
Review and approval of minutes generally takes place at the next regularly scheduled meeting.*

ATTENDANCE

Selectmen Nancy L. Carlson, Bruce L. Tatro, and Deborah J. Davis. Town Administrator Elizabeth Fox also was present.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Selectmen reviewed and approved accounts payable and payroll manifests.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

INFORMATION

Troubadour Laureate Fox alerted Selectmen to the January 18, 2009 Keene *Sentinel* article regarding Calkin's recognition. The story has been "picked up" by AP and bylined in the Boston *Globe*. Carlson expressed regret that the story neglected to mention the "Swanzey Rural Character" project that inspired the recognition.

NHMA Dues Fox reported receipt of a letter from the New Hampshire Municipal Association announcing the rescinding of a 3% dues increase. Fox advised the Board that she has adjusted the recommended budget and default to reflect no change.

CITIZEN CONCERNS – Theresa DiLuzio (6:10 – 6:20), Mt. Caesar DiLuzio appeared before the Board to express her concern regarding the Mt. Caesar property. She cited activities that appear to be causing deterioration of trails, including trail widening, use of trails by 4-wheelers, and lack of maintenance of water bars. DiLuzio encouraged Selectmen to take steps to protect the Town's resource. The group considered installation of gates and posting signs to list permitted activities and/or limit use during certain times of year. Fox advised the Selectmen that the Board has authorization to adopt regulations regarding Town properties.

Sidewalk tractor As a member of the Sidewalk Committee, DiLuzio informed Selectmen that crews at Keene State College are successfully using New Holland tractors to plow sidewalks within the campus. Compared to price quotes for sidewalk plows, the tractors are relatively inexpensive, and also can be used for mowing. Selectmen authorized Tatro to investigate this option.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS – 7:00 p.m. DPW Director Lee Dunham (see **OLD BUSINESS**)

APPOINTMENTS – 6:30 – 6:50 Bob Beauregard (see **NEW BUSINESS**)

NOMINATIONS – Old Home Day Committee is posted.

CONFIRMATIONS – none pending

ENFORCEMENT – Frazier, South Grove Street, 3rd floor apartment constructed without permit. Notice of violation sent by Code Enforcement Officer Weston.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – none scheduled

CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

NH Route 10 Bridge Stakeholders Fox reported that Clyde Keene and Carol Cooper (from the Westport Village) are willing to serve on the committee, along with Tatro, Carbonneau, Busick, Skantze, Dunham, and Bohannon. Selectmen consented to the list of members.

Recommended Budget, Default Budget and Town Meeting Warrant 2009 Selectmen approved the recommended budget of \$ 5,405,375, default budget of \$5,290,528 and special warrant articles of \$498,750.

Fire Department Fox provided Selectmen with a summary of materials distributed to the Board at the January 7, 2009 by Chief Skantze. To further discuss the matters, Selectmen asked Fox to schedule a meeting with Skantze and the Board to take place after the deliberative session.

Homestead Dam Removal Mitigation Measures Fox reported the willingness of several citizens to participate, and asked Selectmen to consider others. Selectmen authorized Fox to proceed.

Other matters

Forecasting road maintenance expenses To update voters at the deliberative session, DPW Dunham advised Selectmen that he is preparing data on fuel consumption, overtime, and salt usage.

Security for salt supply Selectmen and Dunham discussed the possible necessity of installing gates to restrict access to the Town salt supply.

CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS

NHMA meeting Selectmen discussed policy issues related to a January 20, 2009 NH Municipal Advocacy Committee (MAC) meeting announcement. Tatro agreed to attend the January 30 meeting as Swanzey's voting delegate.

MAC member Bob Beauregard appeared before the Selectmen to request the opinion of the Board regarding a proposed \$0.05/gallon gas tax increase. The Legislature has asked Local Government Center for a position; MAC representatives agreed to bring the matter to their towns. Beauregard stated that the gas tax (now at \$0.18/gallon, and unchanged since the early 1990s) is the source of funding for improvements to roads and bridges. The cost of these improvements has increased, and much of the system is in poor condition.

The group discussed the use of the funds, and the effect of the cost increase on citizens relative to the costs and effects of unsafe roads and bridges. Selectmen advised Beauregard to express their reluctant support of the gas tax increase to the MAC.

Beauregard also reported MAC discussion related to proposed increases in NH-DES oversight.

Town owned Boat Accesses & Listing in State guide Selectmen discussed January 2, 2009 correspondence from NH Fish & Game regarding town-owned water access facilities. Selectmen asked Fox to remove Richardson Park from the document's list of boat launches, and to retain the Swanzey Lake Dam and Wilson Pond boat launches.

Donation of professional services Pursuant to RSA 31:95-e., Selectmen considered accepting professional services offered in donation to the Swanzey Open Space Committee (OSC) by Tom Wessels, who has been asked by the OSC to lead a walk on privately owned land in Swanzey to teach OSC and Conservation Commission members about reading the forested landscape. Selectmen authorized BoS authorized OSC Chair Barlow to write a letter to Wessels acknowledging his tax-deductible donation.

Town Report dedication Fox advised Selectmen that the Annual Report is due at the printer in two weeks (approximately, the first week in February), and encouraged the Board to consider a dedication and the contents of their report.

Other matters

Town Buildings energy report Carlson asked for a copy of the report to review.

Protecting Mt. Caesar Returning to the citizen concern, Selectmen discussed options and issues. The group agreed that some level of regulation is appropriate, and agreed that making the best decision will require participation of diverse citizen interests in the discussion. Selectmen agreed with Fox's suggestion to put together a group charged with considering and making recommendations regarding uses, access points, and regulations most appropriate for the land.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Corrected title: SELECTMEN'S MEETING – JANUARY 14, ~~2008~~ 2009.

MRSD School Board size & representation. . . .A proposed warrant article would maintain existing weighting of School Board votes, but would reduce ~~from seven to six~~ from six to five the number of Swanzey representatives.

Motion by Tatro to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2009 regular meeting, as corrected, and minutes of the January 14, 2009 non-public session. Second by Davis. All in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Letter to NHDES Dam Bureau re: permits Thompson Bridge Scour Protection

Motion by Tatro to approve the consent agenda. Second by Davis. All in favor.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION

At 7:07, Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to enter non-public session, pursuant to RSA 91-A:3IIa, to discuss personnel. Present were Carlson, Tatro, Davis, and Fox. DPW Director Dunham also was present.

Selectmen left non-public session at 7:43 p.m., voting by roll call to seal minutes of the session indefinitely.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Davis to adjourn; second by Tatro. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

Submitted by

Victoria Reck Barlow
Recording Secretary

LIST OF FUTURE AGENDA/PENDING ITEMS

1. Personnel policy updates – drafting of updates ongoing.
2. Disposition of South Grove Street Land acquired by tax deed - pending.
3. RFP – Town Facilities assessment.
4. Subdivision Road Standards. Draft developed by DPW Director Dunham distributed to Selectmen. Review pending. Winter Maintenance draft – BOS suggestions re-worked at provided to Dunham 1/5 for final review before forwarding to Town Counsel as requested for an opinion.
5. Street Addressing Committee. Review of file and project status underway. Committee meeting to be scheduled.
6. Discussion, defining roles and responsibilities between Selectmen, DPW and West Swanzey Sidewalk Committee. Research underway. 2009 work plan discussed with committee.
7. Town ordinances – Fireworks. Further consideration deferred to allow for input of full time fire chief following hiring.
8. Carpenter Home Properties – Discussion with counsel re: options. Authorization to investigate pending.
9. Westbrook Court – Class VI – Camuso (Richmond).
10. Old Home Day Committee recruitment.