

## **Selectmen's Meeting – December 13, 2006**

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

**School Board Nominees.** Selectmen discussed scheduling issues related to the candidates expressing interest in the position. One candidate, Ms. Richmond, may not be available tonight.

**Citizen Concerns.** Selectmen took comments from the public regarding the selection process for the school board vacancy. Pat Bauries expressed concern that a public perception of a conflict of interest may exist for Selectman Tatro as the seat being filled was one he had vacated asking he recuse from participation. She also advised that she felt the other candidate (who may not be available for interview this evening) should be declared in default. Jim Ells expressed his view that to declare the other candidate in default due to a schedule conflict undermines the selection process and asked the board to hear both candidates and make an informed decision. Bob Smith pointed out that Gerald Mazza, who has applied for the position, received 400 votes and that lends credence to appointing him to serve. Greg Johnson asked selectmen hear from both candidates. Eric Stanley expressed concern about extending the time that the town remained not fully represented on the school board. He also expressed concern about quorum issues at the board.

**MRSD School Board Nominee Gerald Mazza.** Selectmen interviewed Mr. Mazza querying him on his views regarding the role of a school board member, how to balance between education interests and financial concerns of the district taxpayers. He advised that he viewed the board's role as directing how dollars are spent and that they needed to be spent on educational functions. His prior involvement with MRSD schools has been limited and he has not seen the district's facilities. He has been involved for much of his career in education out of state and currently teaches at St. Joseph's. He expressed the view that communication was the district's most pressing need and felt that his prior administrative experiences in education would help him contribute to improving it. Questions were raised about balancing limited resources and the impact of default budgets. Mazza expressed his view that administration needed to be forthright in expressing needs versus wants and expressed a desire to hear from those who might dissent. He expressed a commitment to participate and intends to run for the position.

**School Resources Officer.** The district's desire to fund only the wage and benefit costs of the program was discussed with selectmen endorsing Chief Busick's efforts to continue dialogue with the district seeking their agreement to fund the full cost of the program through the district budget (of which Swanzey will continue to pay its share of).

**Emergency Notification System.** Selectmen discussed recommendations from emergency services that the town continue to participate after July 1 in the school

district's emergency notification system requesting funding of \$1,600 be included in the Emergency Management budget to for the anticipated cost.

**Budget 2007.** Selectmen reviewed the budget developed to date requesting review of utility and fuel accounts by staff and discussing various expenditures. Inclusion of funding in support of the open space effort within the operating budget was recommended by Selectmen. Further modification of the budget by staff was requested.

**Cemetery & Parks Maintenance Garage.** Selectmen approved the door installation proposal submitted by Keene Door authorizing its execution.

**Cheshire County Commissioners.** A proposal to meet with commissioners on 1/3/2006 was discussed with Selectmen requesting staff investigate whether it's feasible to meet at 6 p.m. Selectmen were advised that the commissioners asked that they tour the jail on a convenient date and time prior to the meeting.

**School Board Nominee.** Selectmen discussed the interview conducted and whether to defer action to see if an opportunity to interview the second candidate could be arranged. After discussion, selectmen voted 2-0-1 (with Selectman Tatro abstaining) to proceed with the nomination selection voting to put forth Gerald Mazza to fill until the March election the seat created by the resignation of Bruce Tatro.

**Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting of December 6, 2006.** Selectmen approved as written the minutes of their meeting of 12/6/2006.

**Upcoming Meetings.** A meeting with the legislators representing Swanzey has been tentatively scheduled for 1/17.

**Correspondence, Permits & Other Matters.** Selectmen reviewed and executed the following:

- Intent to Cut, Tax Map 38 Lots 19 & 20 and Tax Map 10 Lot 2-1.
- Notice of address change – Koch, 43 Owens Drive.
- Holiday schedule revised to include Sewer Commission FT employee.
- Request to withdraw funds – Conservation land acquisition/easement capital reserve account.
- Notice of Liens for Packard & Bouffard.
- Attachment # 1, Notice of Acceptance of a Dedicated Street as a Town Highway – Owens Drive.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Submitted by,  
Elizabeth A. Fox, Town Administrator