

## **Selectmen's Meeting – April 27, 2010**

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

Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

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

### **Informational Items.**

- Market Basket Site Visit. Planning Board members will be visiting the site on Thursday, April 29th at 4 p.m. Selectmen are welcome to attend too.
- Keene State College. Jeff Goller's class will be doing project presentations next Wednesday, May 5th at 4 p.m. at Town Hall. Selectmen are welcome to attend and participate in the class presentations "Integrated Planning & Landscape Design" focused on several town properties including the Carpenter Home, Potash Bowl, Museum, Wilcox School and Richardson Park.
- Carpenter Home Quarterly Financial Report for the period ending March 31, 2010 was provided to board members.
- BDM site (Route 10) – Cheshire Tire Building. CEO Weston has advised that he has been told that in the next few weeks material at the site will be ground up to facilitate transport. To date, land use applications seeking relief to allow burning of the building debris at the site have not been filed by the property owner.
- FMLA Leave. Members were advised that FMLA leave approved for an employee was deferred due to a change in the surgical schedule.

**Welcome to Swanzey Sign.** Market Basket developers have offered a welcome sign with installation to be placed at the town line. Selectmen authorized scheduling of a public hearing to accept testimony regarding accepting the gift of a "Welcome to Swanzey" sign.

**Carpenter Home.** Replacement of a 330 fuel tank at Carpenter Home was required. Selectmen approved the invoice for the work required totaling \$1,399.03.

**Past Due Taxes and Tax Liens.** An updated list of taxes outstanding eligible for deeding was reviewed by board members. Lien of the 2009 outstanding taxes occurred a week or so ago. The tax lien executed for 2009 outstanding taxes totaled \$382,748.88 versus \$335,945.27 the previous year.

**Public Hearing – RSA 31:95-b, accepting and expending insurance proceeds resulting from damage to the Homestead Cemetery wall and gate by a HP Hood Truck during the winter of 2009/2010.** Chairman Carlson opened the public hearing at 6:35 p.m. DPW Director Lee Dunham was present. Damage to the wall and the estimate to repair as well as the agreed price reached between Keene Monument and the insurer to complete the repair were reviewed. The goal is to have the wall repaired prior to Memorial Day. No public testimony was received. Chairman Carlson closed the public hearing at 6:40 p.m. Selectmen voted to accept and expend, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b, insurance proceeds of \$10,530.74 to repair the Homestead Cemetery wall and gate.

**Paving Bids.** DPW Director reviewed with board members the hot top paving and road reclamation bids received end of last week – Attachment #1 and #2. Funding available was

discussed. Further information regarding the funding sources for the work bid will be developed for board members consideration and the bid award was deferred.

**Fireworks Regulations.** Selectmen reviewed a draft regulation developed by Chiefs Skantze and Busick. Members requested proof of the draft authorizing scheduling of a hearing end of May.

**Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIb, Hiring – Health Officer.** Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3IIb at 7:10 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 7:15 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the minutes indefinitely.

**Fire Department.** Selectmen met with Chief Skantze reviewing a variety of department matters.

- Conversion of volunteer firefighters and EMTs to call personnel compensated as part time hourly employees. Policy and the need to reach agreement regarding its parameters and the method in which it is to be implemented were discussed at length. Fox and Skantze will meet in early May to discuss policy and implementation strategies.
- Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIa, Fire Department. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session at 8:18 p.m. pursuant to RSA 91-A:3IIa. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 8:38 p.m. Selectmen accepted the resignation of Nicole Aldrich effective 4/23/2010. Selectmen approved termination of Francis Carpenter effective 4/27/2010. Skantze reported that department personnel Poulin, T. Skantze and Romaneck had all successfully completed their probationary employment.
- Command Vehicle. Skantze reviewed with Selectmen the 3 vehicle quotes solicited for a replacement command vehicle and the 2 quotes solicited for a “turnkey” conversion. Two of the quotes received were for a suburban and the third was for a Yukon XL (and included trade of the department’s existing command vehicle – 1999 Yukon). Quotes for turnkey conversion ranged between \$27,727.64 and \$29,550. Chief Skantze reviewed the merits of investing in a “command” vehicle versus just another car and how it benefited operations for his department and the other departments of the town. After discussion, Selectmen authorized proceeding with purchase of the Yukon (through Fairfield’s and trading the existing vehicle) to be funded from the fire truck capital reserve account in the amount of \$35,840. A decision on the up fit of the vehicle was deferred with Selectmen advising Skantze they wished to limit funds withdrawn from capital reserve for this expenditure to \$60,000. Skantze advised the vehicle would have an in service life of at least 10 years. Selectmen advised they had no color preference and Skantze indicated the department CIP committee preferred black.
- Preventive Maintenance. Skantze advised that the fleet’s preventive maintenance had been completed. All trucks passed their pump tests and the ladder truck passed its testing too.

Open Space Committee Nominee. Selectmen approved appointment of Beverly Bernard as a member of the committee with a term to expire TM 2012.

Consent Agenda. Selectmen approved the following consent agenda items:

- Authorize chair to sign a request to extend closeout for the CDBG Grant until June 30, 2011.
- Authorize chair to sign a release form related to insurance claim to repair Homestead Cemetery wall.
- Executed a letter to Newman re: past due taxes.
- RSA 31:95-b, accepted and authorized expenditure of a donation of \$25 from Descouteaux toward Buck’s “Welcome to Swanzey sign”.

- Approved exemption, deferral & tax credit applications – Attachment #3.
- Executed a letter, in their capacity as the Board of Health, to property owners of 137 Marcy Hill Road regarding its septic system.
- Authorized the chair to sign on behalf of the town a Construction Phase Engineering Services agreement with HTA related to the Thompson Covered Bridge Scour Countermeasures Project following approval by NHDOT.
- Intent to Cut, Tax Map 44 Lot 6.

Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meeting. Selectmen reviewed and approved as written the minutes of their meeting of April 13, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox  
Town Administrator