

## **Selectmen's Meeting – January 10, 2007**

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

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

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

Default Budget. Selectmen reviewed and approved the proposed 2007 default budget – Attachment #1.

Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIb, Carpenter Home Hiring. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session at 6:50 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 6:59 p.m. voting to seal the minutes of the session until the conditions detailed in the offer of employment are satisfied.

Appointments – Open Space Committee. Selectmen executed appointment papers for the following individuals: Katherine Feist – Term expires Town Meeting 2010, Victoria Barlow – Term expires Town Meeting 2010, Suzanne Whittemore – Term expires Town Meeting 2009, Debra Crowder – Term expires Town Meeting 2009, Bud Winsor – Term expires Town Meeting 2008 and Jeanne Thieme – Term expires Town Meeting 2008.

Resignation. Selectmen reviewed and accept with regret the resignation of RPA Scott Trendell effective 1/19/2007.

Correspondence, permits and other matters. Selectmen reviewed and approved the following Notices of Intent to Cut: Tax Map/Lot 3/15, 4/6-8, 10/12, 5/3 & 4, 12/6 and 14/22.

Proposed acquisition of Temple Mountain – DRED. Selectmen reviewed legislation proposing purchase of the former ski area to be acquired as a state reservation. Selectmen expressed support for the acquisition.

Warrant Town Meeting 2007. First draft of the warrant was distributed to board members to take home and review.

Public Hearing – Proposed Budget 2007. Town Moderator Gus Lerandean called the public hearing to order reading the notice provided.

Town Administrator Fox gave an overview of the some of the trends within the community, including increasing commercial and multi-family development, summarizing impacts of town departments. Expectations are that development pressure on the community will continue as both land and infrastructure to support that development are

more available in Swanzey versus neighboring communities. Regional schools and other facilities and events that bring people to Swanzey impacting service needs were reviewed.

Funding sources for the proposed town budget of \$5,749,397 were reviewed with attendees attendance being initially directed to the green sheet – Attachment #2 - distributed. Taxes provide approximately 33% of the support required for the 2007 operating budget and warrant articles. Although overall expenditures in the proposed budget increase 7%, due to the diversity of its funding sources, have an expected tax rate impact of less than 5%.

The proposed budget – Attachment #3 – was reviewed with questions related to the various budget areas addressed. Substantive portions of the increases related to general government are due to insurance and retirement costs. Queries regarding employee contributions for insurance, and whether they should be increased, were discussed. Special detail budgets, for both police and fire, and how those expenses and revenue were illustrated in the financial reports provided voters were discussed. Call volume in the town's emergency services departments, which was fairly constant as compared to 2005 for fire services and up 300 for police, were reviewed by Chief Karasinski and Chief Busick. Chief Karasinski attributed the stable call volume to the unseasonably warm weather in November and December decreasing winter related calls for service. Chief Busick advised that generally calls were becoming more complex and requiring more officer time to address. Recycling Center operations were reviewed by Solid Waste Manager Dave Krisch. Some of the changes at the center during 2006, which include an additional full time employee, discontinuance of free exchange, decreases in c & d materials as well as failure to break even in electronics recycling were reviewed. Open Space Committee plans to continue public education efforts. Individual warrant article, capital reserve and expendable trust appropriations proposed were reviewed with anticipated fire vehicle needs and looming fire facility needs discussed.

The proposed default operating budget was distributed – Attachment #1 – and adjustments noted on the DRA form were reviewed.

Moderator Gus Lerandau closed the public hearing at 8:30 p.m.

Fire Department. Selectmen reviewed correspondence dropped off by a fire department member requesting staff prepare a response for the board's consideration.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox  
Town Administrator