

Selectmen's Meeting – January 2, 2008

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

Chairman Tatro called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

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

Highway Block Grant Aid. Figures for anticipated highway block grant funding for 2008 have been received. Estimated for 2008 is funding of \$159,231.50. In 2007, \$ 151,699 was received.

Forest View Estates v. Town of Swanzey. Trial schedule for this land use change tax abatement case has been set. Trial is scheduled for October 2008.

Insurance Claims. Payment of \$2,301 for damage done to the International Dump truck was received at the close of 2007. Since repairs will be completed in 2008, the insurance revenue will be carried forward to cover that expense. In addition, the town's insurer is subrogating against the responsible party for the deductible and that revenue will also be received in 2008.

Amendment to Cable Franchise Agreement with Time Warner LLC. The amendment to the franchise agreement providing for an increase in the cable franchise fee to be remitted to the town was discussed. Testimony received at the public hearing conducted on December 19th was reviewed. Financial impact of the increased franchise fee on subscribers was discussed at length. Fox advised Selectmen that a voice mail message in opposition to the proposed increase had been received from an unknown party. After discussion, Selectmen voted to adopt the agreement – Attachment #1 – authorizing Chairman Tatro to execute the amendment on behalf of the Board.

Agreement to Amend the Agreement between the Municipalities of Keene, Marlborough and Swanzey, New Hampshire and Cheshire TV. Selectmen discussed the provisions of the proposed amendment calling for remittance of the increased franchise fee to Cheshire TV less funds withheld by the Municipality at their discretion and appointment of additional municipal representation to the Cheshire TV Board of Directors. After discussion, Selectmen voted to approve the amendment proposed – Attachment #2 – authorizing Chairman Tatro to execute the agreement on behalf of the Board.

Budget 2008. Selectmen reviewed the proposed operating budget and discussed at length special warrant articles. Board members agreed that an article should be included proposing establishment of a full time fire chief. Information regarding a John Deere tractor with snow blower received by Selectman Carlson from Michael Gomarlo was shared with other board members. Selectmen requested DPW Director Dunham review the specifications of the machine proposed and report to the board his findings relative to its

suitability for the use required. Selectman Tatro advised he would be willing to go with Dunham to view the machine proposed. Funding for liability insurance included in the Stratton Library budget was discussed again. Selectmen decided they would delete that line item from the library budget for 2008 based on information from Mt. Caesar Union Library Trustees that such coverage was not necessary under the laws of the state. Police Cruiser lease costs and whether to plan to trade or sell outright the 4 older cars was discussed with Selectmen advising they wished to plan to trade the units. Default budget calculations were reviewed with Selectmen.

Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIb, Hiring. Selectmen voted by roll call to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3IIb at 8:20 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 8:30 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the minutes of the session until conditions enumerated in the offers of employment authorized are satisfied.

Town Report 2007. Selectmen discussed ideas for the cover of the 2007 Town Report.

Fire Department. Status of amendments to the position descriptions as well as development of a database of the departments training was discussed. Fox will follow up with Fire Chief Symonds.

Department of Public Works. Repairs necessary to one of the town's trucks which broke down on New Year's Day were discussed and Selectmen were advised that the work necessary to get truck #4 back in service was estimated at just under \$3,000.

Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting of December 19, 2007. Selectmen reviewed and approved the minutes of their meeting of 12/19/2007 as written.

Correspondence, Permits and other matters. Selectmen reviewed and executed the following:

- Release of Lien Tax Map 58 Lot 64.
- Agreement between Town of Swanzey and City of Keene for the Ashuelot Rail Trail Enhancement Project – Attachment #3.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator