

Selectmen's Meeting – January 19, 2010

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

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

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

Ashuelot Rail Trail Project (#14221). Selectmen met with Project Manager Bruce Bohannon who reviewed briefly the funding status of the project. It was recently awarded funding for its full scope from Route 101 to Sawyers Crossing Road. Funding for the Route 101 trail bridge (not part of this project's scope) is now scheduled for 2013. Bohannon requested permission to authorize TF Moran to proceed to final design for the trail project. Selectmen voted to authorize TF Moran to proceed in compliance with the project requirements determined by NHDOT.

2010 Mack Tanker Truck. Selectmen reviewed an email from Chief Skantze and a proposed change order to modify the original truck specification converting roll up doors to lap doors, adding a pull out tool board to the R-1 compartment to accommodate 4 SCBAs, adding SCBA brackets for the tool board and changing the folding steps under the left rear to fixed steps with lights. These changes have been requested by Swanze Company (non-profit association) who has approved release of association funds for the change order in the amount of \$3,567. Selectmen voted to accept from Center Company, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b, \$3,567 to fund the change order. Selectmen also voted to authorize the change order, subject to receipt of the funds required from Center Company. Chairman Davis was designated to sign the order on behalf of the board.

1978 Seagrave Ladder Truck. In follow up to a resident's concern regarding the content of minutes of a Bristol Town Meeting pertaining to this truck express to Fox, Selectmen met with Chief Skantze. He reviewed the minutes in question (as well as an email directed to Fox responding to the resident's concern) advising board members that comments regarding the capacity of the ladder reported in the minutes were not made by him and that he did not agree with those comments as the truck had remained in service for over a year following the town meeting. He reviewed for board members NFPA design standards for trucks of that vintage and how they varied for trucks built and delivered today. Design standards for tip live loads for aerial devices have increase over the years. The current standard continues to recognize a minimum capacity for ladder tip load of 250lbs. While there is no question new aerial design standards result in safer equipment with more flexibility for low angle operation at full extension, the 1978 ladder meets NFPA minimum standard. It was subject to a full preventive maintenance inspection prior to being put in service, will be re-tested annually and 24 of the department's personnel have participated in 4 hours of classroom training on the principles of operating the aerial so they would understand the truck's capabilities and limitations. Each operator was also required to spend several hours (depending on their

ability) with driving, setting up the aerial, placing the water tower in operation, and operating the ladder and reaching pre-established targets around the community. In addition, personnel were provided supplemental reading material covering ladder company operations, safety, and procedures.

Repairs to Engine 2 & 3. Skantze advised that the pump and governor repairs required were scheduled.

LCHIP Grant Award – Tippin’ Rock Farm, Phase I. Selectmen discussed the success of the Monadnock Conservancy’s application for funding to obtain a Conservation Easement over this parcel.

100th Birthday – Mrs. Lantz. Selectmen joined in celebration of Mrs. Lantz’s birthday extending the following wishes: “On behalf of the entire town of Swanzey, we extend our warmest wishes to you on the occasion of your 100th birthday. We think about all that has changed since 1910! And yet, your kindness, intelligence, warmth and positive attitude have been constant. Thank you for bringing these qualities to our community. Your example has made Swanzey a brighter place”.

Budget 2010. In follow up to the budget hearing conducted by the board on 1/12/2010, Selectmen determined that funding for the aerial mapping project with NHDOT (due to the agencies timeline for agreements with municipalities) should be incorporated into the town’s recommending operating budget adding \$13,075 to the general government expenses line item. With that amendment, Selectmen voted to recommend to voters an operating budget of \$5,538,810, set a default budget of \$5,483,630, recommend capital reserve and expendable trust appropriations totaling \$456,850, recommend seeking authorization of a 5 year lease agreement for ALS monitors and current year funding of \$8,615 as well as recommending establishment of a revolving fund for recycling center improvements.

Town Meeting Warrant. Selectmen executed the warrant for Town Meeting. Staff late today completed processing 2009 vouchers and updated budget forms will be available for signature by board members no later than Thursday

Inventory Penalty – Tax Map 72 Lot 22-554. Selectmen reviewed a request to waive the penalty assessed this parcel declining to do so.

Consent Agenda. Selectmen reviewed and approved the following consent agenda items:

- Notice of Lien, Tax Map 87 Lot 2-5112 & Tax map 73 Lot 22-520.
- Semi-annual CDBG report designating the chair to sign on behalf of the board.
- Timber Tax Warrant, \$3,494.43.

Consideration of Minutes of Meeting of January 12, 2010. Selectmen reviewed and approved the minutes of their meeting of 1/12/2010 correcting a typographical error

related to the funding required for aerial mapping to read “\$13,075” (the number disclosed at the budget hearing) not “\$13,025”.

Non-public session RSA 91-A:3IIa – Personnel Matters. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session at 7:50 p.m. Present were Selectmen and Fox. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 8:05 p.m. Selectmen voted by roll call to seal the minutes of the session indefinitely. Selectmen approved an employee request for FMLA leave of up to 12 weeks beginning 1/22/2010. Selectmen also request staffed obtain fire department run reports for 2009 for review by Tatro.

Board of Tax & Land Appeals. Selectmen discussed proceeding under the board’s new mediation process executing letters to taxpayers regarding these pending 2008 appeals.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator