

Selectmen's Meeting – January 25, 2011

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

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

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

Citizen Concerns. Betsy Braden met with Selectmen expressing her support for the town supporting the SRO's position at the Monadnock Regional School District HS/MS. Concerns about rising vandalism and drug issues and need to put efforts toward reducing the impacts of these trends on youth in our community were expressed. As a business person, parent and former teacher she expressed her concern that youth lacked an understanding of authority. She felt the presence of an SRO at the school focused resources toward addressing her concerns. Selectman Tatro advised that Selectmen supported the SRO and in an effort to ensure the program remained in place had revised the towns proposal to the district dedicating additional town resources to support the position. Unfortunately, district officials have rejected that offer and seem determined to only put \$50,000 toward the program. To continue it with only that support from the district, it will require Swanzey taxpayers (through town and school taxes) to fund 71% of the program costs. Given Swanzey represents approximately 48% of the school population that seems unfair. He also advised he intended to propose an amendment at the deliberative session seeking additional district dollars for support of the position.

Legal Matters. Selectmen were advised that a hearing on the town's motion for periodic payments as required by the court order in the Town v. Sevene/Cournoyer zoning is set for Monday, 1/31/2011 @ 9 a.m.

Fire Department Activity 2009, 2010 & Comparison of Calls 2008-10. Selectmen were provided with call data from the department and a comparative spreadsheet.

Fish & Wildlife Friendly Culverts. Pamphlets on friendlier culverts provided by Conservation Commission member Stephen Stepenuck were distributed to members.

Recommended Budget 2011/Default Budget 2011. Selectmen discussed their budget recommendations for inclusion in the town meeting warrant approving amendment (from the numbers presented at the budget hearing) setting the cruiser lease payment figure at \$28,765 and funding for the energy efficiency projects at \$95,000 based on updated cost estimates and a desire to include the town hall/center station heat plant in the project schedule. Both changes were disclosed at the budget hearing held 1/11/2011. Selectmen voted to recommend an operating budget of \$5,527,605 and additional warrant articles for cruiser leases, 2 bridge projects, energy efficiency projects and capital reserve/expendable trust funding bringing total recommended appropriations to \$8,175,870.

Town Meeting Warrant Articles. Selectmen reviewed and approved warrant articles for the 2011 meeting voting to recommend all monied articles. Final copies of the warrant, budget documents and default documents reflecting decisions made this evening will be prepared for members signature by week's end.

Financial Policies. Selectmen reviewed and approved policy regarding undesignated fund balance – Attachment #1 and confirmed inclusion of \$580,000 of fund balance as an estimated revenue in the 2011 Recommended Budget.

Carpenter Home Roof Project. Selectmen reviewed interim financial reports through 12/31/2011 for the Carpenter Home Special Revenue Fund and expenditures attributed to date to 2010 for operation and the roof project now underway. Selectmen approved posting \$8,000 of roof project expenses incurred prior to 12/31/2010 to the Carpenter Home operating budget decreasing the impact of the project on the funds available in the non-expendable trust accounts to benefit the home.

Nomination for Road Safety Audit, intersection of Sawyers Crossing Road & Route 32 and Route 12/Route 32. Selectmen approved nomination of these two intersections for this program sponsored by the SWRPC authorizing Fox to submit a letter of nomination.

Public Informational Meeting – Cobble Hill Road and Warmac Road Bridge Projects. Selectmen participated in an informational meeting on these two bridge projects conducted by Hoyle, Tanner & Associates Engineer Sean James. The informational meeting was opened by Chairman Carlson who read the notice provided.

Engineer Sean James walked information meeting attendees through a presentation providing information regarding the projects – Attachment #2. The proposed bridge structures and associated road and approach work were discussed at length. Relative to Warmac Road, the bridge structure will be longer but narrower than the existing culvert. The Cobble Hill bridge is proposed to be relocated to the east of the current location. The eastern location is actually where the bridge was prior to the installation of the current bridge in the 1970's. Permit and NHDOT requirements were reviewed. In addition, maintenance requirements of the new structures which are anticipated to have a life span of 50 to 75 years versus the culvert structures installed in the mid-1970's and now failing was discussed. Comments from residents seeking parking near the bridges to accommodate recreational uses such as fishing or boating were received. Concern was expressed by an abutter about property impacts with Mr. James advising that construction and slope easements may be required but that property "takings" were not anticipated.

Old Home Day Committee. Selectmen considered the applications received to date determining that it was timely to establish some structure for the group aimed at supporting some continuity in the group and providing for transition. A maximum committee size 11 was recommended with the group having the ability to establish sub-committees to allow it to draw in additional volunteers. The nominees were reviewed with Selectmen laying out term length for each. Paperwork for the board's execution will be prepared.

Citizen Bank - ACH Receipt Authorization. Selectmen approved participating in a low cost ACH receipt fraud prevention program authorizing the town administrator to execute applications and paperwork necessary for the town's participation.

E911 Addressing – "Buffum Road" v. West Swanzey Road. Selectmen approved assigning a name for addressing purposes for this private road which exits Route 10 in Keene but leads to a residence and business in Swanzey. Staff was authorized to assign numbers in accordance with the numbering system and initiate notification to the property owners, necessary agencies and public safety responders.

Wellness Committee. Selectmen were updated on the committee's work and plans to offer 2 workshops for employees and families in March and April focused on Fitness and Nutrition.

Selectmen approved supporting attendance by staff during work hours with permission of their supervisor.

Selectmen's Annual Report. Members developed content ideas for their annual report.

Consent Agenda. Selectmen approved the following consent agenda items:

- Raffle Permit #2011-02, Monadnock Boy's Basketball.
- Intent to Cut, Tax Map 20 Lot 31.
- Land Use Change Tax Warrant \$896.44 (Tax Map 79 Lot 6-2).

Minutes of Previous Meetings. Selectmen approved as written the minutes of their meeting of January 11, 2011.

Town Report Dedication. Ideas for dedication of the annual report were reviewed.

MRSD Selectmen's Dinner Invitation. Selectmen discussed an invitation received from School Board Chair Richard Thackston to a dinner set for 1/28/2011.

Fire Department. Selectmen approved payment to Bound Tree of an August 2010 invoice for a service plan for the ALS monitors in the amount of \$3,354.24 from the 2010 department operating budget as expenditure reports generated indicate approximately \$9,000 remains available from the 2010 appropriation and the expenditure is recommended by Chief Skantze as prudent to support the new equipment in his discussions with the board on 12/7/2010.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator