

Selectmen's Meeting – June 15, 2010

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

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

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

DPW Chip Sealing. DPW Director Lee Dunham advises that chip sealing was completed today. Roads chip sealed include Shirley Lane, Trotter Lane, Sawmill Drive, Highland Circle and Carlton Road.

Fire Department Activity Report – May. Selectmen received a report from the Department tallying May calls.

RSA 41:14-a, Gocht Septic System. Feedback received from Conservation Commission was distributed to members.

Notice of Bench Trial. We received notice that trial for Gocht v. Swanzey (septic system) has been scheduled for October 19/20.

MNTS Land LLC v. Town of Swanzey (Land Use Change Tax). Notice has been received from Town Counsel advising that the town's motion to dismiss this case has been granted.

Swanzey v. Sevene & Cournoyer. Attorney Fernald has filed a motion seeking civil penalties and attorney's fees in this matter. Need to address the plantings required by the planning board which have not survived in order to be in compliance with the site plan approval was discussed with Selectmen executing a letter to Cournoyer and Sevene requesting a plan to address the matter.

Public Hearing – RSA 41:14-a, Replacement of existing septic system on Town owned property- Richardson Park. Chairman Carlson called the hearing to order at 6:35 p.m. reading the public notice provided. Comment from the public was solicited. Ronald Gocht asked whether use of the statute was appropriate since the town had received the park for charitable purposes or as a gift. Research he has done indicates that the property was a gift to the town in 1905. He also said the process required him to come to too many meetings. Fox indicate, that while town records might not be complete, they indicate that the entire property was acquired in at least 2 transactions. The portion which includes the Pavilion Building came to the town with restrictions but that abutting the Gocht property did not. It was suggested Gocht provide any research he might have to the town. Being that there was no other testimony, Chairman Carlson closed the public hearing at 6:38 p.m. The second public hearing required by the RSA 41:14-a process is scheduled for June 29th.

Land Use Change Tax, Tax Map 83 Lot 7, William Prescott Jr. & Sheryl Prescott.

Selectmen reviewed information received from the town's assessor indicating that approximately 12,000 square feet of the property had been developed to site the hunting camp/cabin disqualifying it from current use. Selectmen set a market value for the site of \$9,600. Land use change tax penalty, as set by statute, is 10% of market value plus recording fees.

Town Budget 2010. Selectmen discussed action by the state legislature last week regarding the state budget which did not include direct cuts to rooms and meals revenues or further shifting (beyond that already scheduled) of retirement costs. It is expected that, through program reductions required to balance the state budget, costs for activities no longer supported by the state will be downshifted to communities. As an example, the funding requested to support the NH Lakes program was cited. Non-tax revenues through 5/31 were reviewed. Concern was expressed about meeting several targets set with the most significant being investment income. Several smaller revenue sources not expected to meet targets set during the budget process. Staff will continue to monitor revenues updating the board on a monthly basis. Selectmen requested recommendations be developed for distribution of the 1% merit pool for board consideration. The 2010 budget does not provide for COLA pay rate adjustments for personnel.

Car 1 Replacement – Fire Department. Chief Skantze met with the board to discuss outfitting of the Yukon (to replace the 1999 Yukon) whose purchase was authorized several weeks ago. He reviewed with Selectmen a funding proposal dated 6/15/2010 – Attachment #1 – which funds the car purchase and its conversion from capital reserve up to \$60,000 and provides the balance of the project funding from line items within his budget. Some cost concessions, through providing a portion of the funding for the conversion in advance and the balance upon delivery were also obtained from the vendor. Plans included in the budget to purchase an additional computer for the department will be deferred. Selectmen voted to approve the conversion proposal at a cost of \$26,628 with funding of \$24,160 being removed from the fire truck capital reserve account and \$2,468 from the operating budget (\$1,234 data processing & \$1,234 tools & equipment) for the project. Acceptance of vendor payment terms for an additional discount was included in the funding plan approved by the board. The car will be drop shipped to the conversion vendor's location. Conversion is anticipated to take three weeks to a month with a tentative delivery date for the car just prior to Old Home Day.

ALS Monitors approved by Voters Town Meeting 2010. Chief Skantze advised that the new monitors had been received and that department members currently being trained on the new equipment.

Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIa, Fire Department. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session at 7:30 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 7:50 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the minutes of the session indefinitely.

Fire Department. Selectmen accepted the Ronald Fontaine's resignation from the officer's position of Fire Prevention Captain. Mr. Fontaine will continue with the department as a firefighter/EMT-B.

Cheshire Fair. Chief Skantze advised that planning for emergency services for the 2010 event was to begin with a meeting tomorrow between Fire, Police, Emergency Management and other public safety agencies. Primary concern of the fire department for the event is fire related service as CFA provides EMS coverage. A new vendor checklist will be used by the department at the Fair this year.

Swanzy Rural Character Fund – proceeds from DVD sales. Selectmen discussed funding generated by this project initially dedicated toward support of the SRC premiere. With the premiere behind us, some proceeds remaining and some sales ongoing, Selectmen approved revising the purpose for which these funds may be accepted and expended pursuant to RSA 31:95-b to that which supports activities that promote Swanzy as celebrating its rural character.

Dedication of new Welcome to Swanzey sign – Old Home Day. Selectmen advised they anticipated being available to attend the “unveiling” of the new sign requesting more information on the requirements of the “unveiling”.

Home Occupation Application – Goller, 636 Old Homestead Hwy – Tax Map 34 Lot 6. Selectmen reviewed the application proposing a second floor office for the owner’s residential landscape design business approving it as described in the application as qualifying as a home occupation.

Abatements 2009. Selectmen considered abatement applications resulting from the 2009 Update of assessed values taking action as detailed – Attachment #2.

Monadnock Regional School District. A suggestion received by Fox that Selectmen meet with Swanzey representatives to the MRSD to discuss the SAU withdrawal report (scheduled for hearing on June 23) was relayed to members. Selectmen requested that meeting be scheduled advising that it might also serve as an opportunity to discuss how educational parity for Swanzey school children might be achieved.

RADEF Officer. Selectmen discussed the hiring of a RADEF officer requesting EMB Bohannon meet with the board.

Hazard Mitigation Plan. Selectmen approved a resolution – Attachment #3 – adopting the Swanzey Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Resignation – Open Space Committee. Selectmen accepted with regret the resignation of committee member Dan Zeh.

Homestead Cemetery Repair. Selectmen queried about the granite used to repair the gate posts damaged this winter advising it looked to “light”.

Timber Tax. A timber tax warrant of \$4,279.84 was approved by members.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – June 8, 2010. Selectmen reviewed and approved as written the minutes of their meeting of June 8, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator