

Selectmen's Meeting – January 16, 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 6:25p.m.

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

Town Officers Filing Period. The filing period for town offices opens next week. Selectmen were provided with a list of the offices available at Town Meeting 2008.

Vermont Yankee Reception Center. Selectmen were provided with a press release advising that the reception center had been relocated from Keene State College to Keene High School.

Carpenter Home Special Revenue Fund. Members were provided with a financial report summarizing 2007 operations. It was noted that this was the 3rd year the SRF had ended the fiscal year in a positive cash position.

Rural Development. Selectmen were advised that RD had put the town on notice that the town had 3 months to complete spend-down of the remaining North Swanzey Project grant funds. A copy of the correspondence received has been forwarded to the Sewer Commissioners.

Fire Department. Selectmen reviewed position descriptions for fire department station and prevention captains and amendments proposed resulting from the previous week's discussions. Selectmen voted to approve the amendments proposed adopting position descriptions for the Fire Station Captain and Fire Prevention Captain as detailed in Attachment #1 and #2.

TLC Stables. In follow up to information received last week from R. Kowaliw, Selectmen were provided with copies of correspondence received from M. Hurt of TLC Stables and an anonymous source regarding the sawdust production operation and correspondence from Town Planning Carbonneau to Hurt outline town requirements for the use.

Thompson Bridge Lighting. Selectmen were advised that the DPW had turned off a portion of the lights on the covered bridge. To date no reaction has been received from residents of the area or travelers.

Cheshire TV Board of Directors. Selectmen requested staff post the opening discussed at the hearings in December.

Home Occupation – Brian Wheeler, 576 Swanzey Lake Road. Selectmen discussed the application received seeking home occupation approval for an automotive repair business and the board's previous decision on a similar application from LaBounty. Selectmen voted to deny the use proposed as qualifying as a home occupation.

Home Occupation – Robert McClure, 10 Aldrich Road. Selectmen were advised that an application had been filed by Mr. McClure and that staff had directed correspondence to Mr. McClure seeking additional information to assist the board in its consideration.

Mt. Cresson (Carpenter-French LCHIP parcel) Trail. Selectmen discussed a query from Conservation Commission member Deb Crowder regarding naming of the trail leading up the mountain expressing their preference that it be named the Mt. Cresson trail.

Monadnock Regional School District. Bob Smith and Eric Stanley, members of the district's budget committee, met with Selectmen advising they both intended to run for school board and they were seeking the Board of Selectmen's endorsement. They prefaced their remarks by advising that they would ask that Selectman Carlson (Eric Stanley's mother) recuse herself from considering whether the board would endorse their candidacy. Stanley and Smith reviewed for Selectmen why they had decided to run for school board. They feel the town isn't being represented as it should be currently and that board members who can listen to both sides and work toward compromise are needed. They reviewed for board members other town issues that they had been involved in such as the county jail and the elementary school playground project. Whether as individual board members they would support the decision of the group even if it was not a decision they had voted for was discussed. Both indicated they would support the decisions of the board regardless of their personal positions prior. Role of the school board and the need to provide oversight over the district's administrators was discussed. Facilities needs of the district and various approaches including development of a middle school multi-purpose room, a separate middle school, renovating the current school and several other options considered in the past were discussed at length. Stanley and Smith requested Selectmen endorse them as candidates. Selectmen advised they wished to consider their remarks, review town ordinances and consider whether as a board (versus individually) they wished to endorse candidates deferring further consideration of the matter until the closed of the filing period (February 1).

Town Meeting 2008 Warrant. Selectmen reviewed a draft of the Town Meeting Warrant and voted to recommend to voters passage of articles 2, 3, 4 and 5 as required by statute. Articles 6, 7 and 8 are sponsored by Selectmen. Selectmen took no position on Article 9 submitted by petition.

Flood Storage Easement – Mill K area. Selectmen were advised that in accordance with the terms of the agreement between the town and Emile and Nancy Legere execution of the proposed flood easement was not timely as the conditions and requirements included in the agreement had not yet been satisfied. Consideration of the terms of the easement, as well as its execution, was deferred by the board.

Land Use Change Tax Penalty, Tax Map 63 Lot 8-2 – Wyman & Gomarlo.

Selectmen reviewed the subdivision plat and comparable land sales occurring in the community since January 1, 2007. After discussion of the lot, location and those of parcels sold since January, Selectmen determined the fair market value for the 5.13 acre parcel to be \$75,000. An invoice for the Land Use Change Tax (10% of market value) plus recording fees will be prepared for the board's execution.

Broadvest Properties Arrowcrest Drive Subdivision (Phase II). Selectmen reviewed the plat of the scaled back subdivision currently before the Planning Board and discussed the name proposed by the developer for the street to connecting Arrowcrest Drive to Marcy Hill. The developer proposes Pleasant Street. Selectmen voted to designate the connecting street "Pleasant Road".

West Swanzey Sidewalk Committee. Need to improve communication between the board and committee was discussed with Selectmen requesting staff prepare a letter to committee members updating them on the board's decision (relative to the 2008 Budget) regarding replacement of the 1989 Bombardier sidewalk tractor.

Minutes of Previous Meetings. Selectmen approved as written the minutes of the following board meetings:

- Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting of January 2, 2008.
- Minutes of Selectmen's Meeting of January 9, 2008.

Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIb, Hiring. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session at 8:09 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 8:11 p.m. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to seal the minutes of the session indefinitely.

Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIa, Personnel. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session at 8:12 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 9:10 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the minutes of the session indefinitely.

Department of Public Works. A complement regarding winter maintenance of Shirley Road was received by a board member requesting it be relayed to the DPW employees.

Selectmen's Goals. Development of board goals was discussed and will be scheduled as an agenda item upon completion of the Town Meeting Warrant, Proposed 2008 budget and Town Report.

Thompson Bridge. Status of the dam removal/bridge preservation project and an upcoming meeting to be scheduled with state officials was discussed.

Correspondence, Permits & other matters. Selectmen reviewed and executed (or authorized execution of) the following:

- Notice of Lien, Tax Map 73 Lot 22-584.

- Event Permit #2008-1.
- Household Hazardous Waste Days 2008-2009. Selectmen authorize Chairman Tatro to execute an agreement with the City of Keene to participate in household hazardous waste days at the City Recycling Center/Transfer Station through 2009.
- Amendments to Town of Swanzey Flex Plan. Selectmen authorized Chairman Tatro to execute amendments to the Town's flex plan to ensure conformance with new statutes and IRS regulations – Attachment #3.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator