

Selectmen's Meeting - August 26, 2009

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

Chairman Davis called the meeting, conducted in the Community Room at the Swanzey Police Station, to order at 6:05 p.m.

Financial Matters. Selectmen reviewed and approved accounts payable and payroll manifests for checks to be issued 8/27/2009.

NH DOT Safety Improvements – Lake Street/Swanzey Factory Road & Route 12. Selectmen were advised that correspondence had been received from NHDOT advising that survey work to initiate assessment of possible safety improvements at the intersection would be commencing shortly. Abutters and property owners in the area have also received notification from NHDOT.

Thompson Covered Bridge Scour Countermeasures/Homestead Dam Removal River Restoration Project. Selectmen were advised that the project had gone to bid this week. Prequalification of bidders was complete prior to issuance of the bid notice. Bids are scheduled for opening at the offices of HTA (project engineers) on October 1. Project construction is scheduled to begin July/August 2010.

Richardson Park. Selectmen were advised of a break in at the park over the weekend. Damage was minor.

Cresson Bridge. Selectmen were advised that the wing wall concern identified in the spring during state bridge inspection had been repaired. NHDOT will be notified. Ideas to protect the bridge from over height vehicles were discussed.

Mill K. Selectmen discussed scheduling of a site visit to the property on a Monday or Tuesday requesting Fox coordinate schedules of board members, Grounds & Facilities Supervisor Francis Faulkner and Jim Phippard to finalize a date/time for the site visit.

Public Hearing – RSA 31:95-e, Accepting a 2010 Mack Cab & Chassis truck from Swanzey Center Company. Chairman Davis called the hearing to order at 6:30 p.m. reading the notice provided (Attachment #1). Present was Chief Skantze. Proposed is acceptance from Center Company of cab and chassis purchased with funds from a bequest left by Charlie Hanrahan directed to support acquisition of a truck. Center Company has voted to purchase this particular cab and chassis and give it to the town. The town would then finance the outfitting purchasing a body with funds from the fire truck capital reserve fund. The tanker is the next truck requiring updating in the fire department fleet. The new truck would replace the 1962 Mack Tanker which would be taken out of service. The value of the new truck cab & chassis offered the town is \$114,735. A proposal to construct and install a tanker body recommended by the Fire Chief has a cost of \$173,762. Delivery of the cab and chassis is expected in October and

it is estimated that construction and installation of the body will take an additional 270 days. Selectman Davis closed the public hearing at 6:40. Selectmen voted to accept the gift of a 2010 Mack Cab & Chassis with a purchase price of \$114,735 from Swanzey Center Fire Company. Selectmen discussed scheduling an opportunity to view the ladder truck offered as part of the tanker body proposal.

Discretionary Preservation Easement. Selectmen reviewed a worksheet outlining statute criteria to analyze the application submitted by Patrick D. Smith (51 Westbrook Court, Tax Map 27 Lot 14) to place a discretionary preservation easement on a 36' x 50' freestanding barn located near the road to the south of the property's residence. Selectmen after reviewing the statute criteria approved an easement that would provide for a reduction in the 36' x 50' freestanding barn's assessed value of 55% based on its demonstrated public benefit in accordance with the provisions of RSA 79-D:II. Easement documents for recording at the county will be prepared and once signed by the application presented to the board for execution.

Pullen Property, Tax Map 67 Lot 2. Due to a survey completed last winter, a correction to the current use application filed for this parcel in 2005 is required. It appears the septic system for the home located across the street is on this parcel and this improvement is not eligible for current use assessment. The land impacted is approximately .16 acres and is well defined by the new survey. Selectmen requested staff prepare the necessary documents to adjust this parcel's current use record agreeing that since it was a very recent error, attributable to both the property owner and staff, to waive any penalty that might be associated with its correction.

Waste Management Contract. Selectmen met with Solid Waste Manager David Krisch and Assistant Stephan Stewart. Krisch reviewed a proposal by Waste Management to amend the current contract eliminating fuel and environmental surcharges assessed in exchange for a 2% increase in the contract's base rate. Currently fuel and environmental surcharges add 11% to the base rates in the contract. In addition, the current contract would be extended 2 years. After discussion of the terms of the proposal, Selectmen agreed to proceed recognizing the savings it would generate for the town.

Heating Oil Bids. Selectmen reviewed the bid results deciding to again accept a fixed price bid for the 2009/2010 heating season (versus a fixed mark up). Low bidder under those terms (without a prepayment requirement) is Webber Energy. Staff will finalize the gallons required for the upcoming season and execute paperwork necessary to lock in the contract.

Budget 2009. Selectmen authorized initiation of pay rate adjustments for staff included as part of the budget development process earlier in the year but deferred when state budget officials announced plans that would withhold rooms and meals and shared revenue distributions to towns and cities. In the end, the adopted state budget continued rooms and meals distribution but suspended revenue sharing (a revenue loss of approximately \$100,000). Selectmen expressed appreciation to town staff who continues

to work hard to meet the service needs of the community and response to the challenges of these difficult economic conditions.

Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIa (Employee matter). Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session at 7:41 p.m. Board members and Fox were present. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 8:03 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the minutes of the session indefinitely.

Selectmen’s Meeting Schedule. Selectman Carlson requested the board assess whether it was feasible to change their meeting night from Wednesday to Tuesday. With start of the legislative season in November, it is difficult for her to participate in house votes which are frequently on Wednesdays. Board members advised they would review their schedules and further discussion will be scheduled for a future meeting.

Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIa (Employee matter). Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3IIa at 8:09 p.m. Present were board members, DPW Director Dunham and Town Administrator Fox. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 9:20 p.m. Board members voted by roll call to seal the minutes of the session indefinitely.

Consent Agenda. Selectmen approve the following items on the consent agenda unanimously:

- Accept and expend pursuant to RSA 31:95-b \$200 generated by ad sales for the Swanzy Rural Character Premiere toward project purposes.
- Accept and expend pursuant to RSA 31:95-b \$1,037.60 of insurance proceeds resulting from a July 27 lightning strike at the Carpenter Home.
- An application for current use for property owned by N. Brown, Tax Map 59 Lot 1.
- Intent to Cut Timber, Tax Map 59 Lot 1.
- Accepting a letter of resignation from Kim Arnone who had been an employee of the town - fire department, effective 4/6/2009.

Minutes of Meeting of August 19, 2009. Selectmen reviewed and approved the minutes of the public and non-public sessions of the meeting of 8/19/2009.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator