

Selectmen's Meeting – October 26, 2010

Present were Selectmen Nancy L. Carlson, Bruce L. Tatro and Deborah J. Davis.

Chairman Carlson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Citizen Concerns. Will and Mary Ryan met with Selectmen expressing opposition to the asphalt plant proposed in Winchester.

Public Hearing – RSA 31:95-e, Façade Improvements at West Swanzey Fire Station.

Chairman Carlson called to order at 6:35 p.m. a public hearing to accept public testimony regarding accepting a donation of labor and materials from Cheshire Builders, Inc. which would remove a portion of the existing station siding and replace door trim aimed at improving its façade. No testimony was received. The hearing was closed at 6:36 p.m. Selectmen voted to accept the donation of labor and materials valued at \$5,024 to improve the façade of the station authorizing the chair to sign on their behalf an acknowledgement of the donation.

Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIa, Personnel. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session at 6:37 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 6:58 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the minutes of the session indefinitely.

Budget 2011. Selectmen initiated meeting with departments, committees, agencies and others submitting budget requests. Groups in this evening's session included:

- **Open Space Committee.** Selectmen met with Theresa Diluzio who reviewed the committee's operating budget submission, likely work plan which will include more post card mailings and other items as indicated in the request. While the group's request for operating funds is down, increased funding for the capital reserve account supporting acquisitions by the town or qualified organizations is requested. The committee feels there is potential for several easement projects in the upcoming year or 2 and wishes to ensure that sufficient funding is available for those acquisition efforts. The current balance on hand in the account was reviewed. While meeting with Selectmen on this matter, Ms. Diluzio expressed her hope that the bridge replacement project under development for Cobble Hill Road will result in a bridge with more rural character than that installed on West Street. Concerns about the condition of the trails on Mt. Caesar and whether resources to purchase materials to repair the trails could be provided by the town if volunteers could be organized to place materials was suggested by Ms. DiLuzio too.
- **Home Health Care & Meals on Wheels.** Selectmen met with Sue Ashworth who was seeking the board's support for an increase in the appropriation for Meals on Wheels in 2011 based on increased meal demand in 2010. She reviewed with Selectmen the organization's goal of using the town dollars as last resort for support of services and their commitment to requiring recipients make efforts to pursue other funding sources when supported by town dollars. Meal demand is projected at 17,850 in 2010 versus 14,314 in 2009. Negative economic conditions have resulted in an increase in demand for services too. Ashworth advised healthcare reform was likely to result in decreased resources for home care and other similar programs. Ashworth advised that she would be willing to try to address the needs in 2011 with the 2010 appropriation but would appreciate flexibility from the town if conditions materialize which require additional

resources. Impacts of the Page Senior Housing on service demand was discussed with Ashworth indicating that initially few services would be needed but as the housing matures demand will increase. Currently 19% of their service group in town falls between the ages of 85-95 and 4% is over 95. As more folks live longer and greater focus is placed on aging in a home environment (to keep costs down), those numbers will increase.

- Mt. Caesar Union Library. Selectmen met with Library representatives Rob Kenney, Arthur Bouffard and Donna Schauer. They advised that the library proposed a “no increase/no layoffs” budget by reducing some of smaller accounts and putting more funds toward fixed costs such as heating and PSNH which are both anticipated to increase during 2011. They advised with conclusion of the auction last weekend, that the library had met its 2010 fundraising goal. The auction raised about \$2,600.
- Stratton Free Library. Rob Kenney (current chair) and Art Bouffard reviewed with Selectmen this library’s funding request which is slightly higher than last year as it includes a 3% payrate adjustment for library staff. Compensation of employees and whether the employees at each of the not-for-profit libraries supported by the town should be compensated in the same manner was discussed. It was noted that the libraries are separate organizations with different governing bodies and while they receive significant funding from the town, and the Stratton Library real estate is owned by the town, neither library is a department of the town. Recent concerns about water quality at the library were discussed. Testing done to date on the well (installed in early 1990’s) was reviewed. Investigation is underway. Selectmen advised library representatives that facility concerns should be directed to the town’s DPW Director.
- Recreation Committee. Judy Bohannon, committee chair, met with Selectmen reviewing the proposed budget which includes the summer program, Richardson Park operations, strength and conditioning, winter sports and holiday programs. It was noted that, likely due to economic conditions, the summer program participation was down from slightly from last year and more significantly from previous years. Richardson Park support went over budget. That over expenditure was attributed to this past summer’s great weather and more traffic at the park. Mrs. Bohannon advised that she had funds available in the 2010 budget at this point to support some improvements at the park such as tree removal and stumping if finances were precluding attending to those facility issues. Selectman Carlson queried how we could expand the town’s recreation offerings and whether the town should be putting more resources and staffing into this area. Options and opportunities were discussed with some concern expressed about lack of necessary town facilities to expand programming and current economic conditions.
- Insurance rates 2011. Selectmen were advised that rate notification had been received and provided with an estimate of budget numbers for 2011 for health, dental, life and short term disability insurance based on rates for current policies.

Public Hearing – Acceptance of Dedicated Streets as Town Highways: portions of C L Lane and Woodland Heights Drive (RSA 674:40-a, III). Chairman Carlson called to order the public hearing continued at the board’s meeting of 10/19/2010. Present were DPW Director Lee Dunham and project developers Eugene & Bonnie L’Etoile. Proposed is acceptance of dedicated streets identified as “Proposed Road” on Sheets 5 and 6 and an improved section of “Oliver Hill Road” as identified on Sheet 11 of a subdivision plan approved by the Swanze Planning Board on March 18, 2004 entitled “Woodland Heights” Owner: W.H Development, LLC and recorded in the Cheshire County Registry of Deeds in Cabinet 12 Drawer 10 #62-67. These sections of road are further described as Phase IIa & Phase IIb in a development agreement (and amendment thereto) between the Town of Swanze and W.H. Development LLC recorded at the Cheshire

County Registry of Deeds Book 2174 Page 868 and Book 2183 Page 814. Dunham reported to Selectmen on road conditions of concern to him including a 400' section of Woodland Heights Drive and a 267' section of CL Lane with edge cracking as well as a 40' section of C L Lane prior to the development's property line which is rutted and cracked. Dunham noted that the cracks are minor and that the road is not "falling away". Repair options were discussed. Those areas with just cracks could be address through crack sealing but the area which is cracked and rutted requires additional treatment. Best methods were discussed with agreement reached that the pavement area rutted should cut out and repaved without disturbing its base. Dunham is to meet at the site with the developers to mark the area to be cut out. Selectmen specified that the crack sealing material should conform to state specifications. Developers will make arrangements to have the work identified completed. The hearing was continued to the board's next meeting. It was noted that the letter of credit recently supplied would remain in effect through November 30, 2010.

Department of Public Works – Street Lights. Dunham met with Selectmen providing background information on the town's street lights (Attachment # 1) advising that he was still working to develop a recommended approach to assess the town's lighting network.

NHDOT Wetlands Permit Applications. Selectmen were advised of an application from NHDOT for work adjacent to the bridge crossing Martin Brook just north of Hale Hill Road. Contact with NHDOT indicates that they are planning work on this bridge – to be done by state forces – with no firm date at this point (permits are good for 5 years) but it could be as soon as next year. Work includes widening of the abutments and wingwalls on the NE and NW ends, installing new bridge deck and new curb, bridge and approach rail. NHDOT also indicated that work was being permitted for the Swanzey Factory Road culvert.

PUC Order – West Swanzey Water Company. Information, provided on order of the PUC, advises the town (as a water customer – Brown Field) that the company is seeking a rate increase of 17.3%.

Route 10 Auto LLC – Consideration of Nomination to SWRPC Brownsfield Program. Selectmen discussed nominating the property to the program to attain an assessment of the site conditions to assist the board its deliberations regarding how to best address its tax delinquencies. Selectmen approved nomination instructing staff to prepare and file the necessary application form and supplemental documentation.

RSA 674:41I(d) Lot off of West Shore Road (Tax Map 61 Lot 13). Selectmen were provided with additional information received 110/26/2010 date and advised that the application had asked to be scheduled to meet with the board. Selectmen advised they would proceed to deliberate based on the materials provided advising staff to include the matter as old business on their agenda. They hoped that they would be able to accommodate addressing the query in the next two or three weeks. It was noted a business meeting would not be conducted on November 2.

Allowable Levels of Assistance Payments – Town of Swanzey. Selectmen adopted an updated maximum payment schedule – Attachment # 2.

Consent Agenda. Selectmen approved the following consent agenda items:

- NE Fire Apparatus – authorization to apply invoice of \$4,117.50 for repair of E-2 radiator (emergency repair authorized by the Board 3/26/2010) to the credit established with vendor from trade of 2 surplus fire trucks in 2009.

- Acceptance of extended irrevocable letter of credit – WH Development (Woodland Heights and CL Lane) \$100,000 through November 30th.

Consideration of minutes of previous Selectmen’s Meetings. Selectmen approved the minutes of the board’s non-public session of October 12, 2010 as written. Minutes of the non-public sessions of October 19, 2010 were approved with some modifications. Minutes of the public session of October 19, 2010 were approved as written.

Non-public session – RSA 91-A:3IIa, Personnel. Selectmen voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session at 9:45 p.m. Selectmen came out of non-public session at 9:59 p.m. voting by roll call to seal the minutes of the session indefinitely.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Elizabeth A. Fox
Town Administrator